

TUDOR SHOWDOWN ANNE BOLEYN v THOMAS CROMWELL

HISTORY REVEALED

KING ARTHUR

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE
ISSUE 40 // MARCH 2017 // £4.80

UNCOVERED: the real Dark Age warlord
who inspired Britain's greatest legend



IMMEDIATE MEDIA
6 120194502077741

PLUS

HELEN KELLER
ZEPPELIN AIRSHIPS
10 BIZARRE WARS
TEMPLE OF ZEUS



**REVOLUTION
ON THE THAMES**

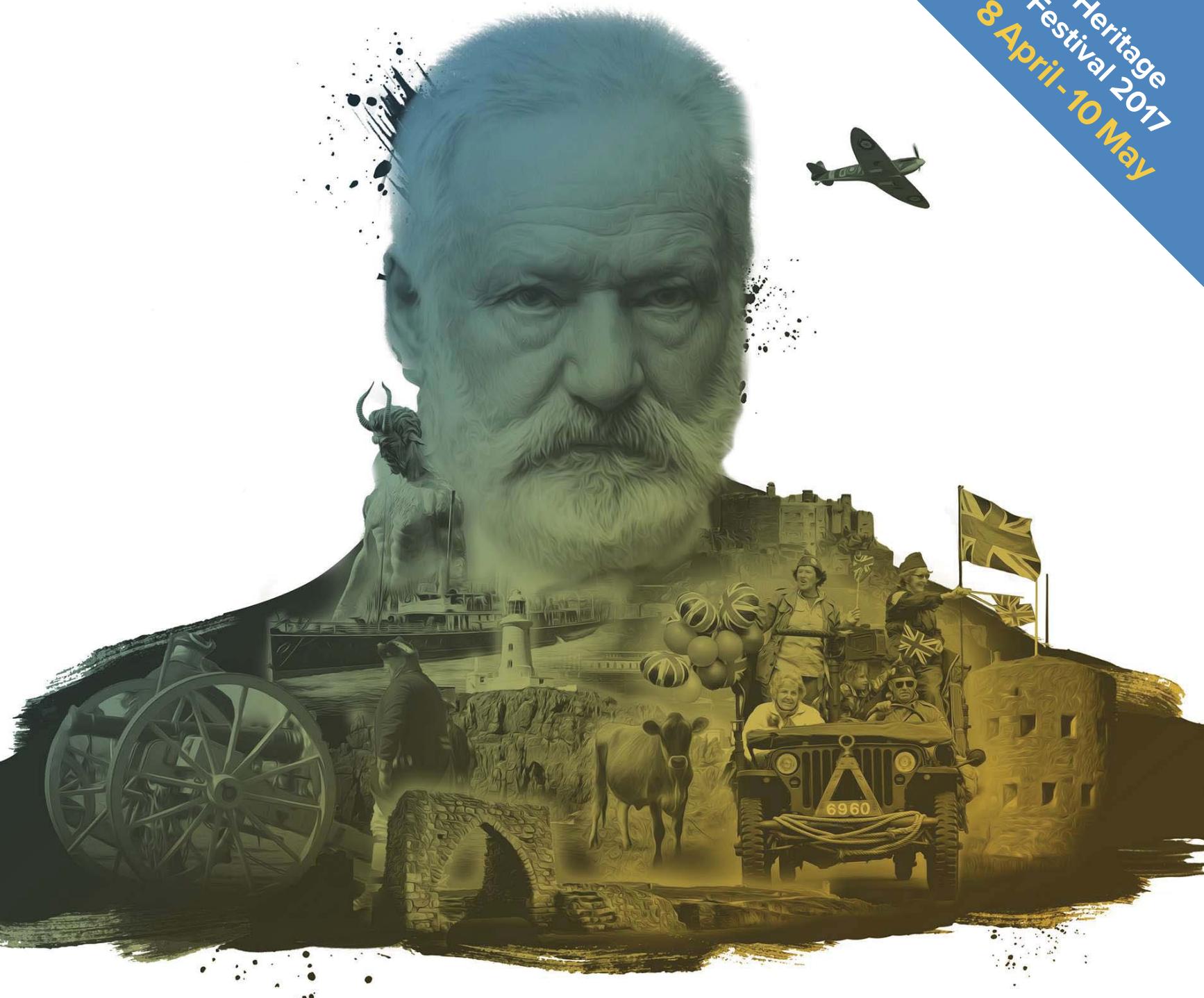
WELLINGTON
Forging the Iron Duke



HELL IN THE JUNGLE
Behind Japanese lines during WWII



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WIN a historical tour through the
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Hungry for history



The idea that **King Arthur might have once been alive and kicking** here in England, with his own hopes, ambitions and desires, has been a fascinating notion for well over a thousand years. And yet, until now, we've never been able to say

for sure whether he was a real historical character, or just the **child of the imagination** of writers of yore. Now, having freshly assessed **crucial sources relating to the Dark Ages**, and applying his findings to archaeological surveys, Miles Russell believes he **may finally have an answer**. His story, which he shares with us from page 28, sheds new light on the mystery.

But King Arthur's isn't the only tantalising tale from the past on this month's menu. For starters, we have the **twin Tudor schemers** Anne Boleyn and Thomas Cromwell (p40), whose attempts to **find favour with the King** saw them both ascend the scaffold. We also have a healthy helping of Victoriana, in which we look at how **the Thames in London** (p68) reflected the incredible changes

How did Stonehenge hold a key to the secret of King Arthur's legend? (p28)



of the time. And from World War II, we serve up an unimaginable story of **derring-do behind Japanese lines** in the Burma jungle (p50). And if that lot doesn't leave you full to burst, our rundown of the **wars with weird names** (p48) should finish things off nicely – pastry war, anyone?

Bon appetit!

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our April issue, on sale 30 March

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ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...



THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

11

Height, in feet, of the statue of a naked Napoleon in the Duke of Wellington's hallway. See page 75.

Five

The number of cities to display parts of William Wallace's body after his execution – London, Newcastle, Berwick, Perth and Stirling. See page 62.

30

Words learned by the deafblind Helen Keller on the first breakthrough day with teacher Anne Sullivan. See page 24.



Normandy: let the history surprise you

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the UNESCO-listed city of Le Havre

Le Havre was founded by King Francis I in 1517 to establish a major, strategic port for France. To celebrate its 500th anniversary, the birthplace of Impressionism will come alive like never before with major art exhibitions, street parades, theatrical performances, concerts and boat races taking place from 27 May to 5 November, making for a summer to remember.

Getting there couldn't be easier with sailings direct from Portsmouth to Le Havre. Make the most of your stay by visiting the nearby picturesque port of Honfleur, the unique Bayeux Tapestry or the stunning cliffs of Etretat, treat yourself to heavenly food and drink and discover a Normandy you have never experienced before.

Normandy leaves a lasting impression!

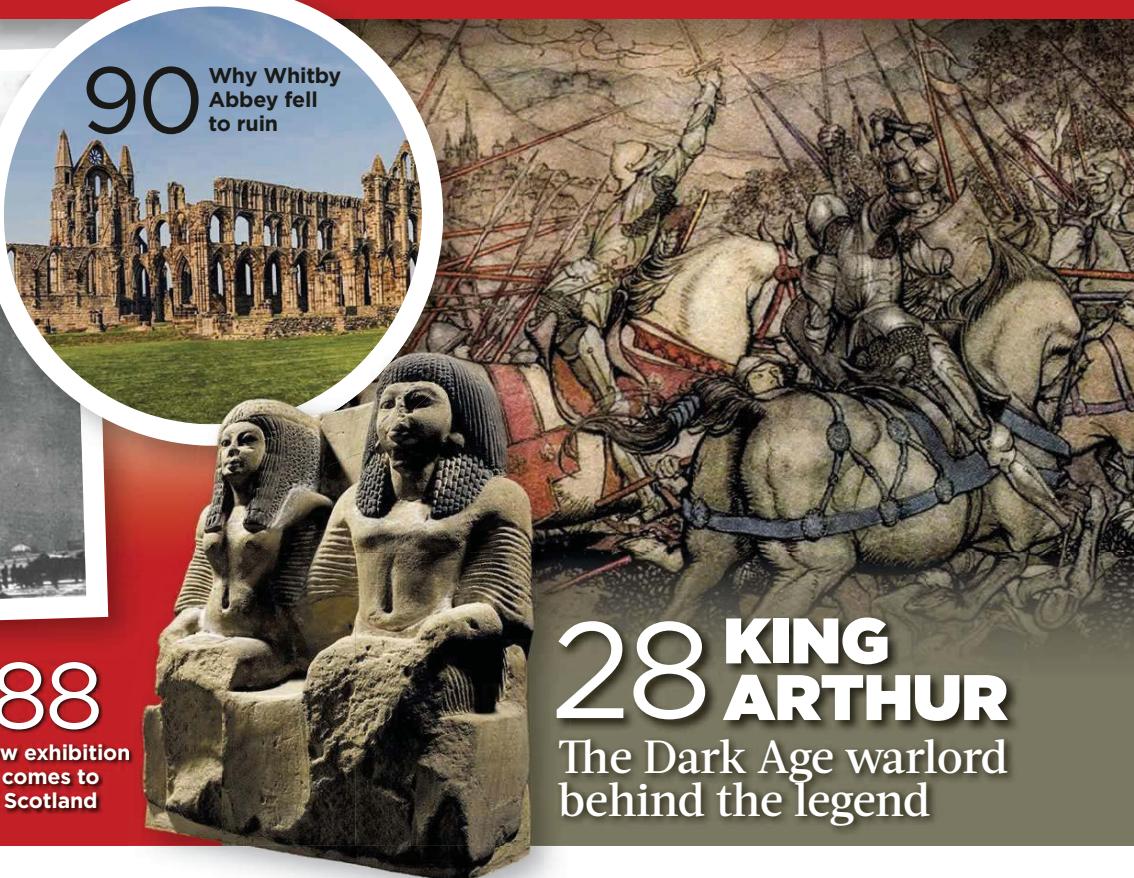
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Normandy
Love the land. Live the life.

**56****The secret story of *Beauty and the Beast*****20****The rise and fall of Zeppelins****24****The deafblind Helen Keller finds her voice****88****New exhibition comes to Scotland**

MARCH 2017

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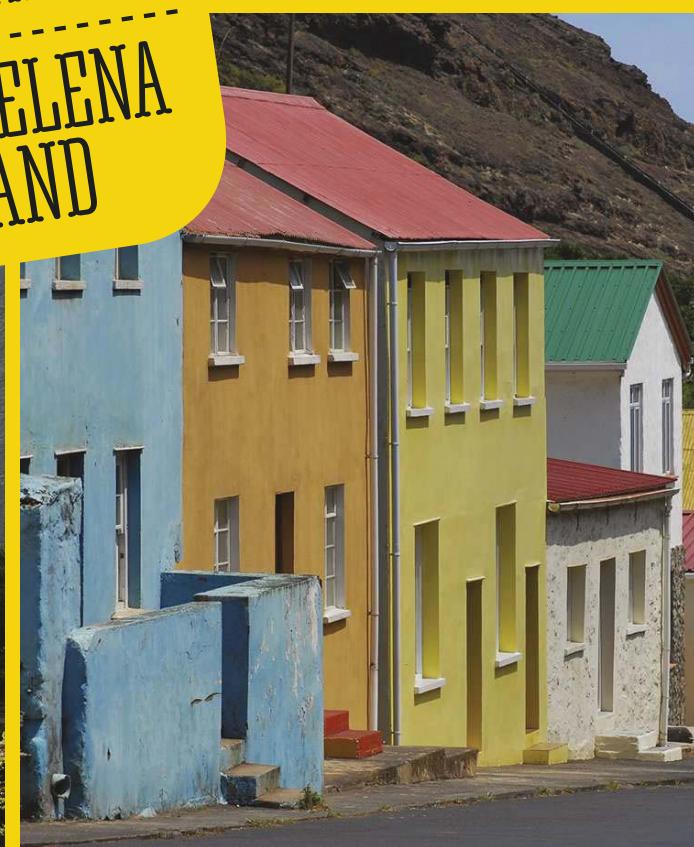
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READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

A FRESH LOOK

Regarding your 'Book of the Month' (Books, February 2017), *Oliver Cromwell: The Protector*. One historian nicknamed Cromwell "a great bad man". David Horspool states in the book that he was the *de facto* king (official title 'Lord Protector'). David goes on to say that "Cromwell's actions threw the whole concept of monarchy into question". That is a wholly weighted and in my view erroneous perspective.

Cromwell wasn't essentially a republican. The document called the 'Head of Proposals' was masterminded by Cromwell, and is shown in the Richard Harris film *Cromwell*, where a captive Charles I was handed these proposals, and Cromwell remarked, "never was a crown so nearly lost but so quickly regained" – should the King agree to the proposals. Most historians dealing with the English Civil War agree that those words were indeed uttered by Cromwell.

Turning onto the Irish question about the horrors of Drogheda, Wexford and the ethnic cleansing of the north by Cromwell and the Parliamentarian committees

in the House of Commons, it needs to be borne in mind that certain Irish revisionist historians have stated that some of his alleged harsher methods were never actually used. It's the old adage – that when the legend becomes bigger than the truth, then print the legend. Cromwell's opponents were in control of the press, and similar to the tabloids today, if you make news and vilify someone who beats his opponents constantly (both on the battlefield and in the House

"Cromwell was never a democrat in the sense we interpret it today"

of Commons), he is sure to gain enemies and leave himself open to public attack – which this uncrowned king definitely did.

In the interview, David talks about Cromwell's obscurity before the Civil War brought him to centre stage, putting the spotlight on his character and his ruthless pursuit of his goals. In my opinion that is partially true – after all, it's a tremendous step to defeat a king who ruled by



GREAT BAD MAN

The 'reign' of Cromwell continues to spark debate

a strange concept of divine right, then put him on trial, find him guilty and have him executed. He gave power back to parliament, and only truly intervened when the House of Commons, led by a former statesman called Sir Henry

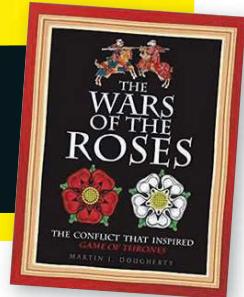
own time, the crushing of the Levellers, diggers and other disparate elements and solo characters like John Lilburne demonstrated – as Cromwell said – the difference between a 'gentleman' and a 'commoner'. So I do believe, like David, that the generations of today should learn about "the Lord of the Fens", or Old Ironsides (two of his most commonly known nicknames). As he once famously said to the court painter Peter Lely, "Paint me warts and all or I will never pay a farthing for it"

Duncan McVee,
via email

Vane, attempted to corrupt and thwart the schemes and dreams of Oliver Cromwell.

Cromwell was never a democrat in the sense we interpret it today. Even in his

Duncan wins a copy of *The Wars of the Roses: The Conflict that Inspired Game of Thrones* by Martin Dougherty (£20, Casemate). Author George R R Martin has previously likened Westeros to medieval Britain, and this work explored the corrupt kings, family blood feuds and foreign wars that inspired the hit fantasy series.



I picked up *History Revealed* from WH Smith's, and it was great reading Tracy Borman's feature!
@AnthonyTorifan

LIFE SAVER?

I read 'Hiroshima: A City Obliterated' (In Pictures, January 2017), and checked a diary entry I made last August. It goes:

"Today is 6 August. Seventy-one years ago the city of Hiroshima

TOUCHED
Our picture story on the first atom bombing struck a personal chord

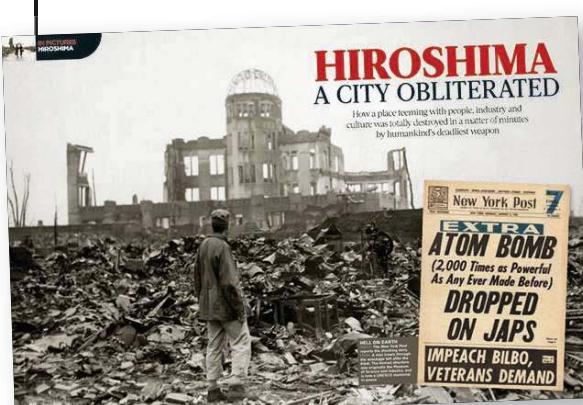
was destroyed by an atomic bomb. Nagasaki was leveled three days later and then Japan laid down its arms and World War II was ended. There was no need for an invasion that would have cost more than a million American and Japanese lives. Both of my soldier brothers would likely have been in that invasion and when Harry Truman gave the order he saved their lives, and those of hundreds of thousands of others, on both sides."

I enjoy your magazine very much and do look forward to each issue.

Dave Hamer,
Nebraska, USA

PRIZED POSSESSION

Thank you for an interesting and engrossing magazine. You cover a wide range of topics, eras and people in every issue. I often find something I've never come across before. The colourful illustrations bring an extra dimension to



the articles.

When I have finished reading an issue I pass it on to my sister-in-law, who was complaining that she was not getting on with her work because she kept getting distracted by the magazine. In turn, each copy is passed on to my daughter, so we obtain great value out of an excellent read.

Andrew Allport,

via email

SALAD-OUT

I question the position of Saladin in your '50 Kings and Queens who Changed the World' (Christmas 2016) at #23, claiming he preached leniency and "offered foreign Christians 40 days to leave Jerusalem". We have to be careful of viewing past times through modern lenses. The only Christians allowed to leave were those who could afford the ransom. The rest were put to death or sold as slaves. Eight thousand of those were women and children. Saladin was not kindhearted; he was a product of his time, where conquerors treated their prisoners how they felt was most beneficial to themselves – ransom for those who could afford it, slavery for those who could not.

Susan Kennedy,

Canada

BLOODY DYNASTY

Without a viable male heir, Henry VIII was likely to face challenges ('Who was the Bloodiest Tudor?', February 2017). He must have previously told the Pope about a routine annulment from Catherine when it became obvious that she was unlikely to produce more children. The Pope may have agreed to it at the right price but the timing was off. Towards the end of Henry's lifetime, there must have been some awareness that Henry's only son Edward was "sickly", with



BATTLE ROYAL

Not everyone agreed with our Kings and Queens ratings

doubts raised about the future of the Tudor dynasty.

When Mary eventually became queen, there was the likelihood that somebody with a strong claim to the throne could prevent her accession. Consequently, Mary had to move fast to produce a Catholic male heir to consolidate her position. Her best hope for this was the marriage to Philip of Spain. To solidify her grasp on the throne, persecution of the Protestants would also demonstrate her strong faith, determination and ruthlessness to any wavering Catholics.

All Mary's plans ultimately failed and she had almost inadvertently strengthened the accession of her half-sister Elizabeth. During Mary's reign, Elizabeth kept a low profile, potentially realising that Mary had a worsening medical condition that would one day leave the throne open to her.

The Protestant Queen Elizabeth was just as ruthless as Mary, but her persecution of Catholics

and other groups seems to have been more motivated by political reasons rather than religious.

James Wells,

via email

I went to Ellis Island last year – full of people learning about the immigrant experience. Should be compulsory for presidents to visit...
@NellDarby

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 38 are:

W Thompson, Bolton
G Gee, Suffolk
A Allport, Berkshire

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *Queen Victoria and the European Empires*.

John Van der Kiste looks in depth at Queen Victoria's fascinating personal and political relationships with Europe's leading figures.

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Bringing the past to life

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IMMEDIATE MEDIA



I absolutely love this magazine. If you are a history buff but get cross-eyed with dates and places, *History Revealed* is going to be your "can't wait for the mail to come" publication! Lauretta Kliest



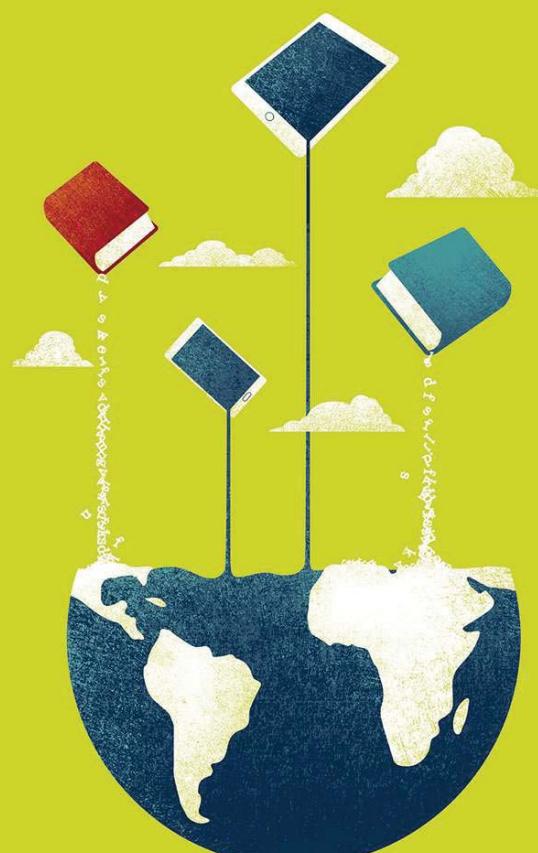
Discover an island that will become part of your history.

Alderney's history has been shaped by its importance as a staging post between England and France, a fact recognised through the ages; a Roman fort built around 300AD, the construction of the breakwater and 18 forts and batteries, commissioned by Queen Victoria, and the construction of over 600 bunkers and defences as part of Hitler's Atlantic Wall during WWII.

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Illustration by Tang You Hong



TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY





SNAPSHOT

1943 PICK YOUR BATTLES

On the beautiful island of St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, British soldiers help to harvest daffodils. During World War II, over 1,000 troops were stationed there as it served as a staging post for the Battle of the Atlantic. Picking daffodils provided a welcome respite from their gruelling daily training.



SNAPSHOT

1903 FREEZE FRAME

A lone wanderer stands at the foot of the partially frozen Niagara Falls. A common sight, large chunks of ice from Lake Erie and the Niagara River go over the falls, forcing icy water in an upward direction, which then freezes and forms an ice bridge. Before a tragic accident in 1912, people could walk across to Canada on the ice, take horses and carts onto it, and some folks looking to make a pretty penny even set up refreshment stands.







TIME CAPSULE MARCH



SNAPSHOT

1935 TIGHT SHIP

Hundreds of workers at John Brown's Shipyard, Clydebank, get back to work on RMS Queen Mary after their dinner break. The ship was one of the largest of its time, and building it was a struggle. The company responsible was badly hit by the Great Depression, and to end its three-year shutdown, had to take out a loan from the British government in order to finish the magnificent job and get its employees back to work.







TIME CAPSULE MARCH

"I READ THE NEWS TODAY..."

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **March**

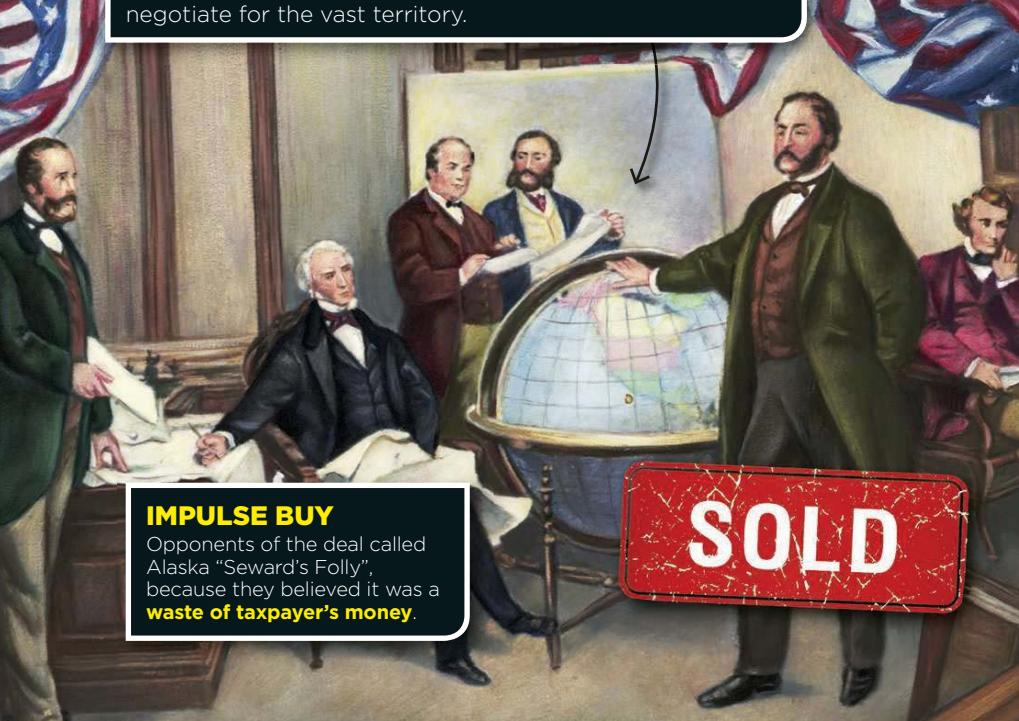


BRING OUT THE BIG GUNS 1918 'BIG BERTHA' BOMBS PARIS

The Paris Gun, **mistakenly identified as the notorious 'Big Bertha'** by French citizens, begins its five-month siege of Paris – **from 75 miles away**. Residents of the city initially assumed they were being attacked by a high-altitude zeppelin, as **no gun blast was heard**.

COLD-CALL 1867 USA BUYS A NEW STATE

At a price of \$7.2 million, which amounted to around two cents per acre, the US finally reached an **agreement to purchase Alaska from Russia**. The Russians, struggling with debt from the disastrous Crimean War, had **tried selling off this enormous chunk of wilderness** – just 55 miles from Siberia, across the Bering Strait – **on several occasions**. However, it wasn't until a year after the Civil War had ended that the Americans were ready to negotiate for the vast territory.



IMPULSE BUY

Opponents of the deal called Alaska "Seward's Folly", because they believed it was a **waste of taxpayer's money**.

DON'T LOOK DOWN 1965 FIRST SPACEWALK

When Alexei Leonov became the first person to walk in space, it was a **massive win for the Soviets in their race against the US**, but it could easily have been a disaster. His **suit had expanded** so much that it was difficult to get back into his spacecraft, and when he was on his way home, he **narrowly escaped** a **fireball** inside the cabin caused by excessive oxygen.

THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE 1942 CHAPLAIN GIVES HIS OWN LIFE

Following an attack on USS *Houston*, navy chaplain George Rentz noticed the number of crew members **struggling to stay afloat**, many without life jackets. He removed his own jacket and offered it to one of the men, then **swam off under the cover of night** before the crew could protest.



SACRÉ BLEU! AD 845 VIKINGS INVADE PARIS

Norse forces **led by the famous Ragnar Lodbrok** laid siege to the Frankish city of Paris. One hundred and twenty of his ships entered the Seine at the start of March, and by the end of the month they had occupied the entire city. They withdrew after the French King, Charles the Bald, **paid them a ransom of 7,000 pounds of silver** without complaint.



ASTRO ARTIST

As well as being an astronaut, Leonov is a brilliant artist, and **took his sketchbooks and pencils into space**. He crafted oil paintings of what he saw.



RICH LEGACY 1349 ERFURT MASSACRE

In 1998, building work unearthed a **hoard of gold and jewels** in the walls of a house in Erfurt, Germany. These had belonged to Kalman of Wiehe, a Jewish merchant who was killed during a medieval massacre. Jewish people were frequently **blamed for the spread of the Black Death**, and so were killed in an attempt to prevent its further spread. Aware that his possessions would be stolen after his murder, the merchant hid them away. They are now on display in the Erfurt Synagogue.

Leonov walked in space for a total of 12 minutes. To stop him flying away, he was tethered to the ship with a 5m cable

FAMILY CAR

1901 MERCEDES HITS THE ROAD

When Austrian car salesman Emil Jellinek entered a Daimler-engined automobile into a race under the name Mercedes, **after his 12-year-old daughter**, it caused quite a stir. It was found to be unbeatable in almost every discipline, and he was so impressed with it that he bought another 36, plus the **licence to sell them** internationally.



“...OH BOY”

March events that changed the world

18 MARCH AD 978 KING EDWARD MURDERED

Edward, appropriately named 'The Martyr', is killed. The perpetrator is supposedly his stepmother, Ælfthryth.

1 MARCH 1565 SEAT OF THE CAPTAINCY

The Portuguese found the city of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. It later becomes the capital.

13 MARCH 1845 FLOUR POWER

A Bristol baker, Henry Jones, invents self-raising flour. Realising its potential, he is given a patent, and it is used by the Royal Navy instead of hard tack.

3 MARCH 1861 EMANCIPATION MANIFESTO

Tsar Alexander II issues his Emancipation edict, giving serfs the same rights as ordinary citizens.

24 MARCH 1934 PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE

The US passes the Tydings-McDuffie Act, paving the way for independence in the Philippines, a country they had occupied since 1898.

3 MARCH 1924 ABDÜLMECID OVERTHROWN

The Republic of Turkey founder Atatürk abolishes the Ottoman caliphate, the last remnant of the empire. The Caliph is exiled.

5 MARCH 1946 IRON CURTAIN SPEECH

Churchill gives his iconic talk on the Soviet Union at a college in the small town of Fulton, Missouri, stating that an "iron curtain has descended across the continent".

AND FINALLY...

Catherine Murphy was convicted of counterfeiting in 1789, and has the dubious honour of being the **last woman to be burned at the stake in England**. This method of execution was abolished the following year, not out of mercy, but because the authorities were offended by the **vile smell of the burning bodies**.



WHO
KILLED



JOCK
EWING?

Starting
today,
another
great
Express
exclusive

It was exactly 9 a.m. and J. R. Ewing had been at his desk for over an hour. He had exploited the time difference to make a dozen calls to a dozen foreign countries.

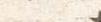
Now he was ready for a little fun.

So begins the Great Dallas Whodunnit... who really did kill JR's Daddy, Jock Ewing?

When Jock was written out of the series, it was death by helicopter crash in Central America.

Now, however, it can be revealed. It was no accident. It was murder!

But by whom, and why?



All this week in the Daily Express you can turn detective by spotting the clues contained in our exclusive serialisation of Who Killed Jock Ewing?

The Daily Express gives you the chance to solve the mystery and name the murderer (or murderer?) who killed Jock Ewing.

The successful "detective" who comes up with the right answer stands the chance of winning a range of wonderful prizes.

They include a fabulous fur, a Caribbean cruise, a special \$5,000 cash reward offered by the Ewing brothers. And, best of all, a chance to visit the Southfork ranch itself and meet your favourite stars.

FOUR-PAGE PULLOUT
STARTS TODAY:
TURN TO PAGE 19

DAILY
EXPRESS

Monday March 4 1985

20p

TV Pages 24 and 25

THE VOICE OF BRITAIN



Strike ends but fight goes on, warns Scargill



Brave face: Defiant Arthur Scargill after yesterday's decision

- Tears at vote to work
- Ban on overtime stays

By BARRIE DEVNEY and PAUL WILENIUS

THE MINERS' strike ended in tears and anger last night. And with a vow from Arthur Scargill that his campaign against pit closures would go on.

Mr Scargill's battered army is due back at the pits tomorrow without any peace deal with the Coal Board.

Seven votes yesterday finally sealed the fate of the year-long strike.

Meeting at TUC headquarters in London, miners' delegates voted by 98 to 91 for a return to work. Outside in the rain and cold were several hundred strikers. Dozens wept when they heard of the decision. They shook their heads in disbelief, tears streaming down their faces.

CHANTING

Minutes before they had been chanting "We'll never go back."

Police struggled to hold strikers back when Mr Scargill crossed the street to give them the news they did not want to hear.

One man bellowed: "Traitor,

you have sold us out." Others yelled: "We are not going back."

Struggling to make himself heard, Mr Scargill said: "I can only come out here and reflect the decision of the conference which was taken democratically."

Union leaders also looked visibly shaken. Nottinghamshire's pro-strike leader, Henry Richardson, seemed near to tears.

As he left TUC headquarters, Yorkshire leader Jack Taylor looked bitterly disappointed. Asked if he had been upset by the vote, he said: "Of course we are."

Mr Scargill remained defiant. He said: "This union has made it absolutely clear, and the leadership of the union including the three national officials, that we have never deviated one inch from the position that we took."

Strikers cheered when the NUM president said: "We will guarantee as a union that this dispute will go on."

Faced with the fact that more than half the union's members had abandoned the strike, the delegates had little alternative but to call it off.

SPLIT

Mr Scargill and his executive committee met before the delegates to make no recommendation.

When this was reported to delegates the NUM "cabinet" was told to think again.

The delegates recessed.

At the executive committee, Mr Scargill's leadership

had to stand out against intimidation. We could never give in to blackmail or give in to a strike which makes impossible demands.

Mrs Thatcher said: "We

had to stand out against intimidation. We could never give in to blackmail or give in to a strike which makes impossible demands.

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LONG TIME COMING

Stocks of coal had been built up in the years leading up to 1984. This suggests that even

if the government didn't actively seek a conflict with the miners, they did anticipate one.

My relief, by Maggie



Mrs Thatcher yesterday

PREMIER Margaret Thatcher spoke last night of her "sense of overwhelming relief" that the miners' strike is over.

But she insisted that miners who had been sacked for offences committed during the strike must take the consequences.

"It would not be right if there were to be an amnesty for those who have committed certain crimes," she said in Downing Street after returning from a weekend at Chequers, where she heard of the miners' decision.

She said miners' families had undergone a lot of suffering and believed the overwhelming majority of miners now wanted to get back to work.

"I hope there will be

reconciliation," the Prime Minister added.

She thanked "those miners who stayed at work, the dockers who stayed at work, the lorry drivers, the railwaymen and the manager, who all stayed at work."

Victory

"These were the people who kept the wheels of Britain turning. In spite of the strike Britain produced record output last year."

Mrs Thatcher said: "We had to stand out against intimidation. We could never give in to blackmail or give in to a strike which makes impossible demands."

"You cannot give in to

SOCcer star francis in kiss of life

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **3 March 1985**, the National Union of Mineworkers called time on a year-long strike

“YOU WILL LOOK BACK AT THIS STRUGGLE WITH PRIDE” ARTHUR SCARGILL

As Arthur Scargill emerged from the HQ of the Trade Unions Congress in London, there were cheers. The mood quickly changed as the president of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) announced that it had voted, by 98 votes to 91, to return to work. Miners braving the cold to hear the outcome were devastated – some jeered, others were in tears.

Industrial action kicked off in March 1984. The National Coal Board declared that 20 pits in England had to close, with the loss of 20,000 jobs – even those with workable coal seams. More than 187,000 miners joined picket lines, heralding the start of the most bitter trade-union dispute in Britain since the 1926 General Strike. It became the defining event of the 1980s.

To defeat the NUM, prime minister Margaret Thatcher had to use every available resource, including the mass mobilisation of the police. Her biographer Charles Moore recorded how, on taking office in 1979, she announced: “The last Conservative government was destroyed by the miners’ strike. We’ll have another and we’ll win.” At the depths of the conflict, with the dockworkers also out on strike in solidarity, Thatcher considered declaring a state of emergency and getting troops to transport coal to keep power stations running.

When the strike was finally abandoned, over 11,000 people had been arrested, and 5,000 miners stood trial for a variety of offences. The pit closures ended a way of life that had been the backbone of industrial Britain, and marked the moment when the once-powerful trade union movement slid into irreparable decline. ☺

VIOLENT CLASHES

Police hold back the picket lines at Orgreave coking plant, Sheffield. In June 1984, in what became known as the **Battle of Orgreave**, nearly 100 people were arrested for rioting.



TESTING TIMES

The NUM vice-president in South Wales, Terry Thomas, said: “The men returned to work **not because they had stopped believing**, [but because] houses were being repossessed [and] marriages were breaking up.”

SPIRITED RESISTANCE

ABOVE: Miners occupy the National Coal Board HQ in London, protesting the arrest of Arthur Scargill
RIGHT: Men in Gwent, South Wales, at a demonstration at the end of the miners' strike



1985 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

8 MARCH In Beirut, Lebanon, a car bomb intended to kill Shia cleric Mohammed Fadl-Allah destroys two blocks of flats, a mosque and a cinema, killing dozens and injuring hundreds.

11 MARCH At the Kremlin, Mikhail Gorbachev is announced as Chernenko's successor. At 54, he is the youngest man to take over as General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

15 MARCH The first web domain, symbolics.com, is registered by a computer systems development firm. The business is defunct, but the website still gives fun facts about internet history.



GRAPHIC HISTORY

The ship that revolutionised air travel

1917 DEATH OF COUNT VON ZEPPELIN

When Ferdinand von Zeppelin passed away, he had no idea that 20 years later his airship business would die with him. After building the first successful rigidly framed dirigible, he established a passenger-carrying airline, and by 1914, 37,250 people had flown on over 1,600 flights without an incident. However, concerns began to be raised about the safety of these highly flammable craft and, in 1937, tragedy struck...



The fire started while the Hindenburg was descending to dock with its mooring mast



THE HINDENBURG DISASTER

The incident that marked the end of the airship era

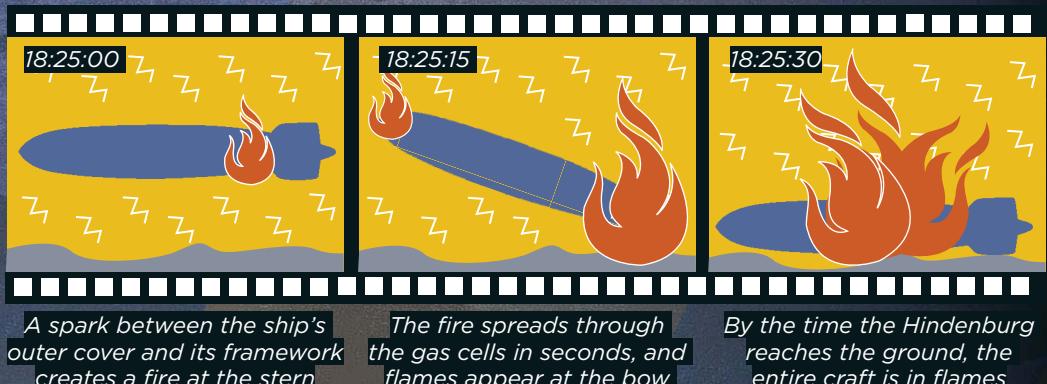
DATE: 6 May 1937

LOCATION: Naval Air Station Lakehurst, New Jersey

CAUSE: Fire during docking

VICTIMS: 13 passengers, 22 crew

SURVIVORS: 23 passengers, 39 crew



16 GAS CELLS
CONTAINING
LIGHTER-THAN-AIR (AND HIGHLY
FLAMMABLE)
HYDROGEN

THE PASSENGER
DECK HAD A LUXURY
DINING AREA, CABINS
AND OBSERVATION
WINDOWS

THE CONTROL
ROOM WAS IN THE
GONDOLA AT THE
BOW

ZEPPELINS IN WORLD WAR I

19/01/1915

THE DATE OF THE
FIRST ATTACK ON
ENGLAND

51
TOTAL NUMBER
OF RAIDS
CARRIED OUT

577
NUMBER
OF PEOPLE
KILLED

5,807
NUMBER OF
BOMBS DROPPED

£1.5
MILLION
ESTIMATED COST
OF DAMAGE

16
THE NUMBER OF AERIAL DEFENSE
GUNS IN LONDON IN MAY 1915, HALF
OF WHICH WERE DEEMED "USELESS"

What happened to the Zeppelins?

Between 1900 and 1938, 129 Zeppelin airships were built.

Here's what happened to the unlucky ones:





WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The Cromwell years had taken their toll on this exhausted parliament

1660 LONG PARLIAMENT DISSOLVES ITSELF

After 20 years, the Long Parliament is abolished so that the Restoration can begin in earnest

The Palace of Westminster was heating up. The men inside the chamber had gathered for a most unusual event – parliament was summoned to dissolve itself. It had been a turbulent couple of decades, and this group of politicians was looking for a fresh start. So, on 16 March 1660, parliament voted unanimously to permanently disband and hold new elections.

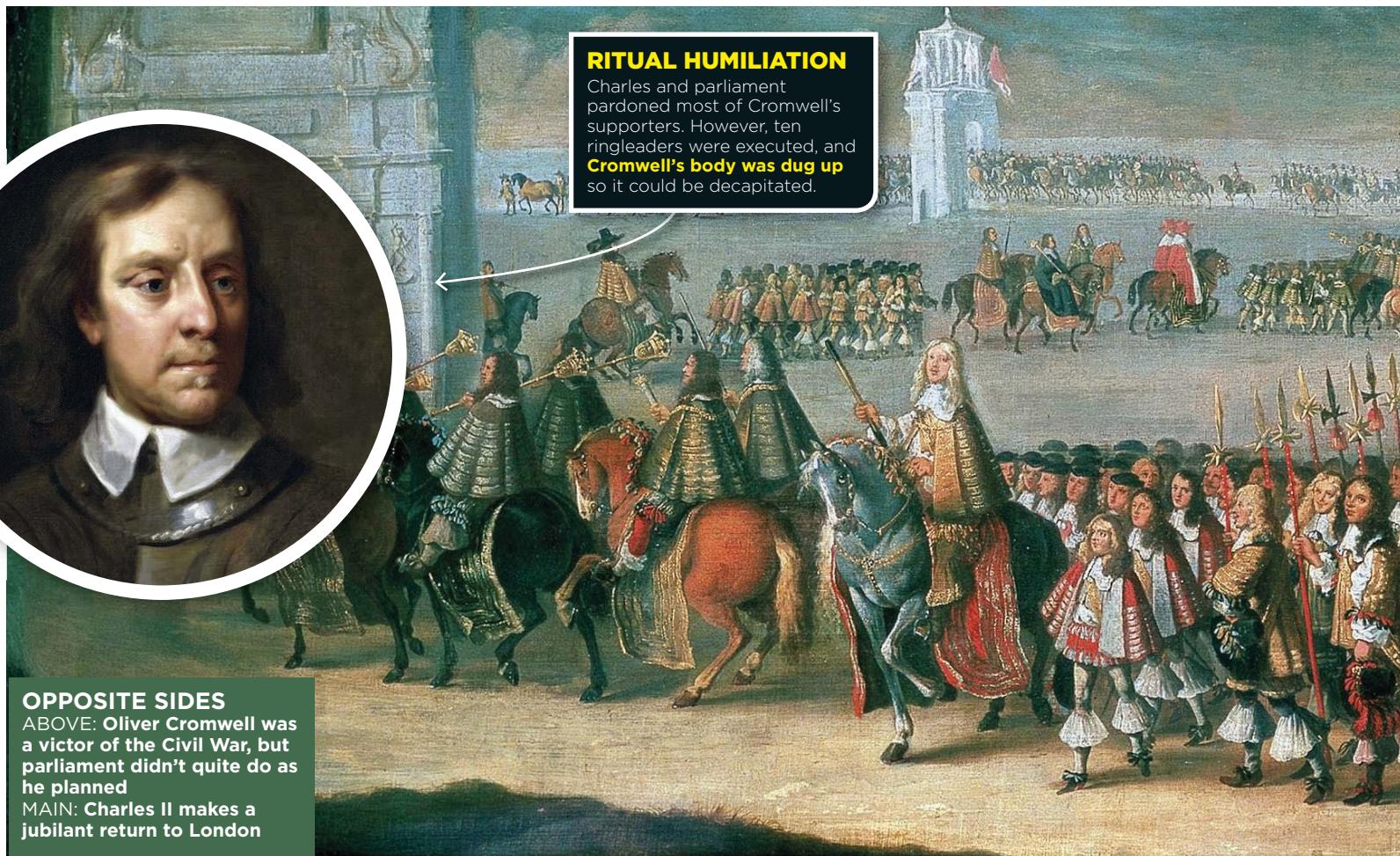
TRYING TIMES

The Long Parliament was born out of chaos in 1640. Its predecessor, the Short Parliament, had existed for only three weeks. King Charles I terminated it after it proved ineffective, and the Long Parliament was summoned very reluctantly, as the King needed taxation revenue to pay for wars against the Scots. Unfortunately for Charles, the Long Parliament was just as unwilling to bend

to his will as its predecessor. It destroyed the power of his advisers and firmly installed parliament at the heart of the British system of government. Naturally, this irritated the King.

After the Civil War broke out in 1642, the Long Parliament was at the centre of a series of crises and upheavals. In 1648, Oliver Cromwell's son-in-law, Henry Ireton (a leader on the army council), ordered the arrest of many MPs who did not support the victorious Parliamentarian army. The Republicans that were left, christening themselves the 'Rump' Parliament, facilitated the execution of Charles I.

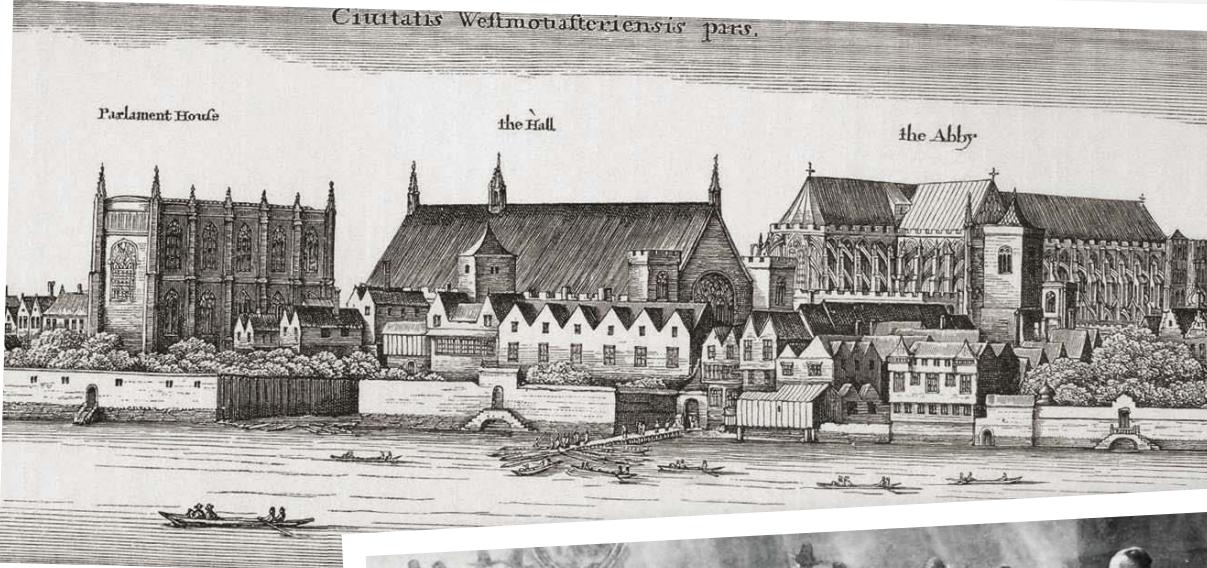
Five years later, however, Cromwell himself dissolved the parliament, anxious about the reforms they were planning on introducing. He replaced it with his personal brand of military rule. When Cromwell died in 1658, his so-called 'Protectorate'



fell apart, as his son, Richard, had little support. The Rump returned. Two years later, those who had been wrongfully expelled in 1648 rejoined. With the public clamouring for the restoration of the monarchy, the House needed to agree to dissolve itself. As the majority of the members were now either conservative or moderate supporters of royalty, this resolution passed in just three weeks.

RETURN OF THE KING

The next month, Charles II was recalled from exile in the Dutch Netherlands to take back the crown. Returning to London on his 30th birthday, 29 May 1660, many ordinary people took part in the large celebrations. For them, it was a relief, as it meant the end of 20 years of pandemonium, and a return to the older, more tried-and-tested means of government. ☺



IN TURMOIL

ABOVE: Westminster during the reign of Charles I. Westminster Hall remains, but the palace was destroyed by a massive fire in 1834

RIGHT: Charles I receives his death sentence. He wore two shirts at his execution so that the crowds wouldn't see him shivering in the bitter January cold and think it was due to fear





THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

Helen Keller, a deafblind child who went from being mute to one of the most prolific authors of her time

1887 HELEN KELLER MEETS HER TUTOR, ANNE SULLIVAN

In what Keller later called her “soul’s birthday”, Anne Sullivan meets her career-defining student for the very first time, beginning 49 years of true friendship – and freeing Helen’s mind from its shackles

Young teacher Anne Sullivan was struggling with her unruly six-year-old pupil, Helen Keller. The child had been deafblind since she was a baby, unable to see or hear anything around her, imprisoned in her own mind. Sullivan was trying to teach her to communicate, but was making little progress. Then one day, an epiphany – Anne took Helen to the water pump and ran the cool liquid over her hand, while writing the word in the child’s opposite palm. Helen finally understood what her teacher had been trying to get across – a moment that would forever change what it meant to be hearing and visually impaired.

PARALLEL LIVES

Anne understood Helen’s frustration. Born in Massachusetts to poor Irish immigrants, she suffered an infection that left her nearly blind for the rest of her life. Her father abandoned the family, leaving them in the almshouse. Life was never easy. Her brother died just a couple of months after their arrival, and Anne was given several botched operations to fix her eyesight, all of which failed.

When the State Board of Charities came to inspect the notorious poorhouse, Anne begged them to send her to a special school, the Perkins School

for the Blind in Boston. Her lust for learning served her well, graduating as a valedictorian, and inspiring fellow graduates with her speech: “Duty bids us go forth into active life. Let us go cheerfully... and earnestly... to find our especial part.”

Meanwhile in Alabama, Helen Keller was born to Arthur, a former Confederate captain, and his wife Kate. Helen was a perfectly healthy baby – until she contracted a fever aged 19 months, which left her blind and deaf. Irritated with her inability to communicate, she grew prone

teacher’s teeth. Anne would get Helen to touch, smell or taste different items, and would trace the words on her palm. Initially, Helen saw these as games, nothing more – until her breakthrough with the water pump. By the end of that day, she had picked up 30 words.

NAME IN LIGHTS

The incredible story of Helen Keller captivated many notable figures, such as Mark Twain. News of the miracle child who had

“The most important day... is the one on which... Anne Sullivan came to me”

Helen Keller, in her autobiography The Story of My Life

to violent tantrums. At a loss as to what to do, the Kellers contacted Alexander Graham Bell, an expert on deaf people. He put them in touch with Perkins, who sent Anne Sullivan, their star graduate.

Anne instantly clicked with Helen, a child not unlike herself. Seeing through the outbursts, she saw a scared child longing to express herself, although she had to isolate Helen to cool her temper. During one particular fit, she knocked out one of her

learned to write – and even speak after a short stint at Perkins – spread across the nation. Wealthy philanthropists such as Andrew Carnegie took interest and helped pay for her education. With Anne’s assistance, Helen became the first deafblind person to graduate from a US university.

After publishing her autobiography in 1903, Helen became a mascot for millions of disabled people worldwide. Embarking on a series of lectures

HEARING AID

Keller said that lip reading was her version of ‘hearing’. This was because, when she placed her fingers on the lips of people who were speaking, she could **feel the vibrations**.



LIP READING

MAIN: Keller places her fingers on Anne Sullivan’s lips, allowing her to understand the words she is saying
BELOW: Keller meets an injured soldier, Private Jim Tutton, in Australia in 1948



(her speaking voice could be difficult to understand, so Anne, her trusted companion, relayed the information to the audience), Helen and Anne toured the country with the American Foundation for the Blind.

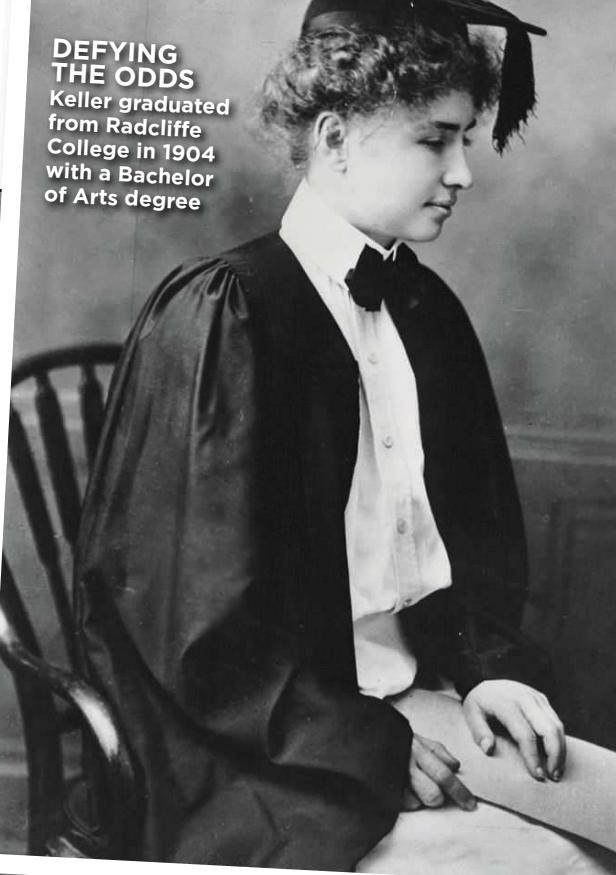
All the while, however, the pair battled constantly with financial troubles. In an effort to raise money for their efforts, they starred in a silent movie



A SIXTH SENSE?

Keller was impressed with President Eisenhower. After their meeting, she claimed she 'felt the courage and thought' that carried him through such great years of the world's history'.

DEFYING THE ODDS
Keller graduated from Radcliffe College in 1904 with a Bachelor of Arts degree



VISIONARY
Helen Keller meets Dwight D Eisenhower

called *Deliverance* in 1919, which recounted Helen's tale in a melodramatic manner. A box-office bomb, the two women had to borrow money for the train fare home from Hollywood.

Staying in the entertainment industry, they decided that vaudeville was a better option. Helen's shows had a question-and-answer format, in which members of the audience would ask questions such as, "Do you close your eyes when you sleep?" Helen wittily replied, "I guess, but I never stayed awake to see".

In the 1930s, Anne Sullivan's health began to fail. In 1936, with

Helen holding her hand, she passed away aged 70. With her dying breath, Anne graciously uttered, "Thank God I gave of my life that Helen might live". Her ashes were interred in the National Cathedral in Washington – the first woman ever to receive that honour.

FREEDOM AT LAST

Helen ensured Anne's legacy thrived. She continued to be a renowned speaker worldwide, advocating for the equality of disabled people, women and all races, as well as causes such as socialism and pacifism. Her visits

to veterans' hospitals during World War II meant that she inspired the victims of horrific injuries, and in turn, was inspired by the bravery she encountered.

Having met every president from Grover Cleveland to Lyndon B Johnson, Helen Keller received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from the latter, and died peacefully in 1968. Her ashes were placed next to her great friend and companion, the miracle-worker Anne Sullivan. ☺



FIRM FRIENDS
Helen (right) and her beloved teacher remained inseparable throughout their lives

HISTORY

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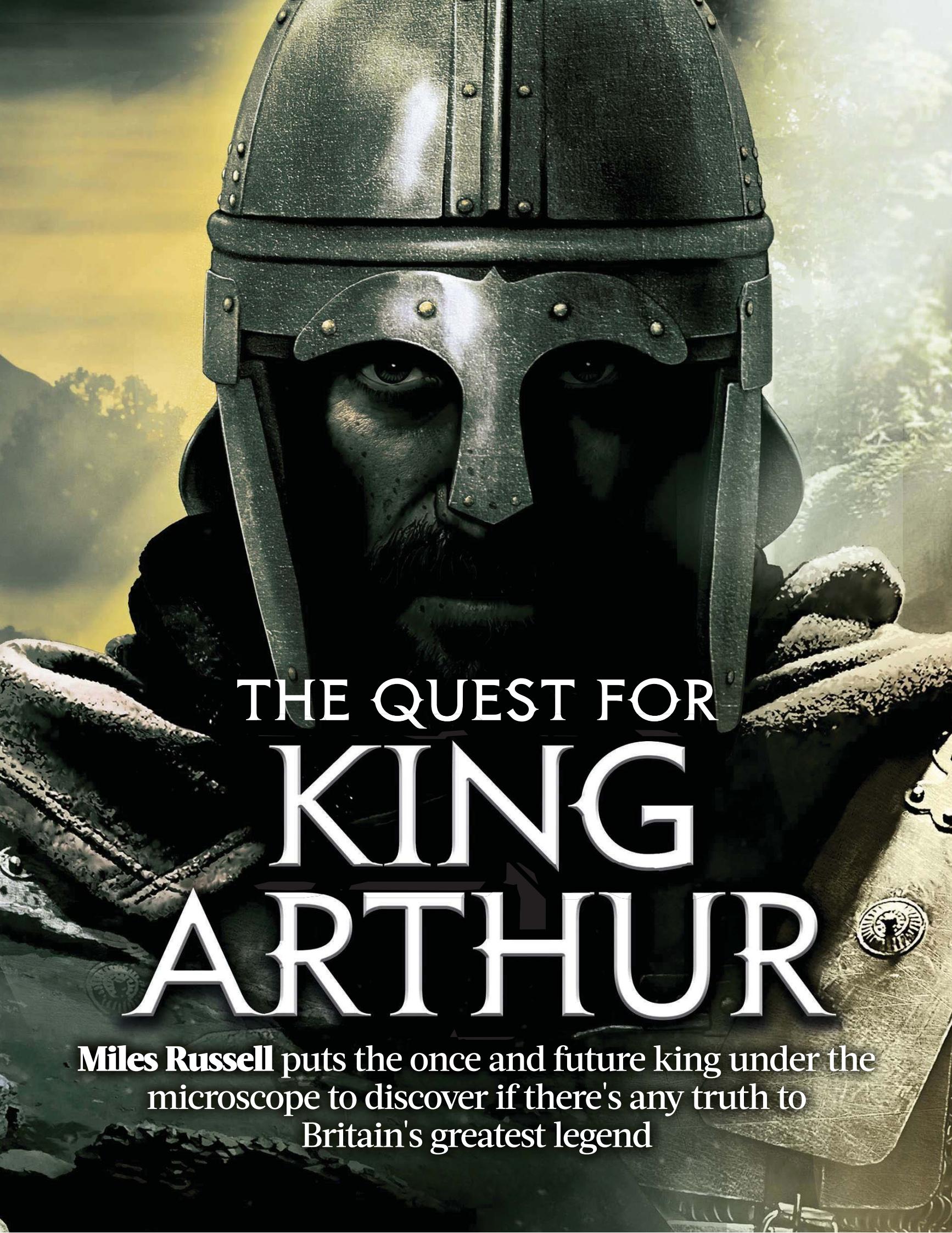


HISTORY
REVEALED Bringing the past to life



ILLUSTRATION: JEAN-MICHEL GIRARD/WWW.THE-ART-AGENCY.CO.UK, GETTY

Who was the post-Roman
warlord who inspired the
legend of King Arthur?



THE QUEST FOR KING ARTHUR

Miles Russell puts the once and future king under the microscope to discover if there's any truth to Britain's greatest legend



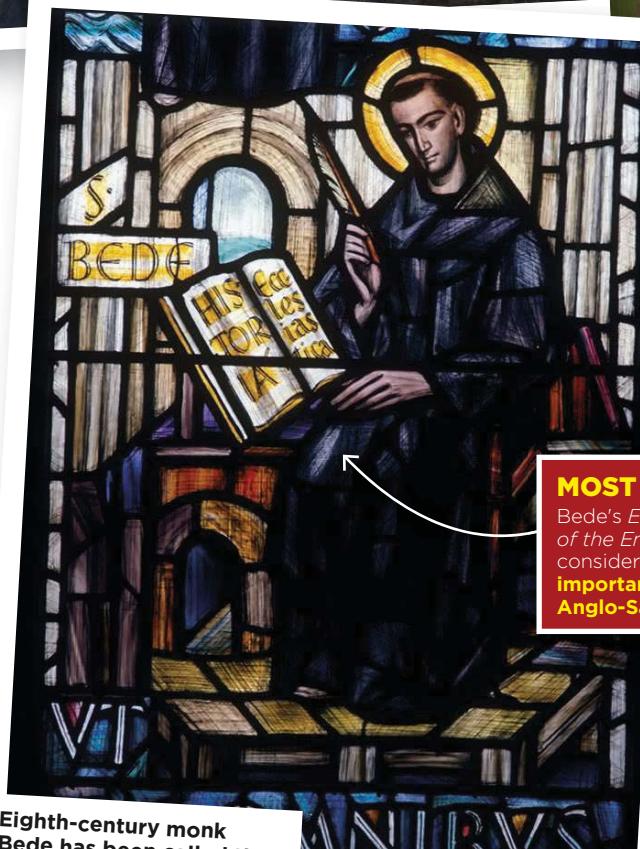
Charles Hunnam as Arthur in the new film, *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*



There are few characters from history or legend so widely celebrated as King Arthur, a medieval celebrity famous the world over. He is the archetypal doomed hero – a brave and chivalric warrior who fought against the forces of evil, establishing a great kingdom and presiding over a golden age, betrayed by those he held most dear. His story has been told, retold and elaborated upon for hundreds of years. A new Hollywood epic, *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* is about to hit the cinemas, reimagining the tale for a new generation and rebooting the franchise yet again. But who was Arthur? Was there a real warlord on whose life the legend is based, or is he a mere fantasy?

As a literary character, Arthur is well-defined. Elements of his story – from the sword in the stone to the quest for the Holy Grail – are embedded in western culture. He crosses effortlessly from history to the worlds of art, folklore and literature, often with no clear indicator of where fact ends and fiction begins. As a historical character, however, Arthur causes a significant headache, for there are no contemporary sources that undeniably prove his existence. Many academics today believe that there was a prototype for Arthur – a successful warlord, perhaps, from the immediate post-Roman period – but few can really agree on who that was.

For most, the period that followed the collapse of Roman rule in Britain is best described as 'the Dark Ages', hidden by a fog of myth and chronological uncertainty. This is a time fuelled by epic matter, the characters appearing in legend having been so extensively



Eighth-century monk Bede has been called the 'Father of English history'

MOST VENERABLE
Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* is considered one of the **most important references on Anglo-Saxon history**.

"He crosses from history to the world of folklore, with no clear indicator of where fact ends and fiction begins"

distorted that it is often difficult to see how particular tales began or to whom they originally related. Macsen Wledig, for example, an important character in the early Welsh epic the *Mabinogion*, ultimately bears little resemblance to the genuine Magnus Maximus of fourth-century Roman history, while the fifth-century Romano-British general Ambrosius Aurelianus appears in folklore gathering monoliths from Ireland and re-erecting them on Salisbury Plain with the aid of magic.

Perhaps the biggest problem for anyone attempting to make sense of the fifth and sixth centuries is the lack of useful contemporary sources. There are the religious writings of Gildas and Bede, as well as the more fantastical *Historia Brittonum* (History of the Britons) or



the *Annales Cambriae* (the Annals of Wales), later collections of dates, lists and topographical information, but overall documentary sources are sparse.

MISGUIDED PATRIOT

Building on this limited set of resources is the *Historia Regum Britanniae* (History of the Kings of Britain), an epic work compiled by Geoffrey of Monmouth in around 1136. This claims to chronicle all the rulers of Britain from earliest times until the seventh century AD. As a later text, containing much that is clearly fictional (including dragons, giants and sorcery), the book has often been ignored or derided. As a piece of literature, however, it is arguably one of the most important works in the European tradition, laying the ground

for stories of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

The verdict of history upon Geoffrey of Monmouth has been harsh – at times treated a fantasist, a spinner of tall stories, a serial hoaxter or a thoroughly misguided patriot. Today, none of the material contained within his *Historia Regum Britanniae* is ever seriously considered as remotely factual and is usually dismissed out of hand. There is, it is thought, no truth in Geoffrey's accounts; there is no 'lost voice' helping us understand the political, economic and social life before Rome. A new study of the *Historia Regum Britanniae*, however, has started to turn this perception around.

Geoffrey of Monmouth claimed that the inspiration for his magnum opus was

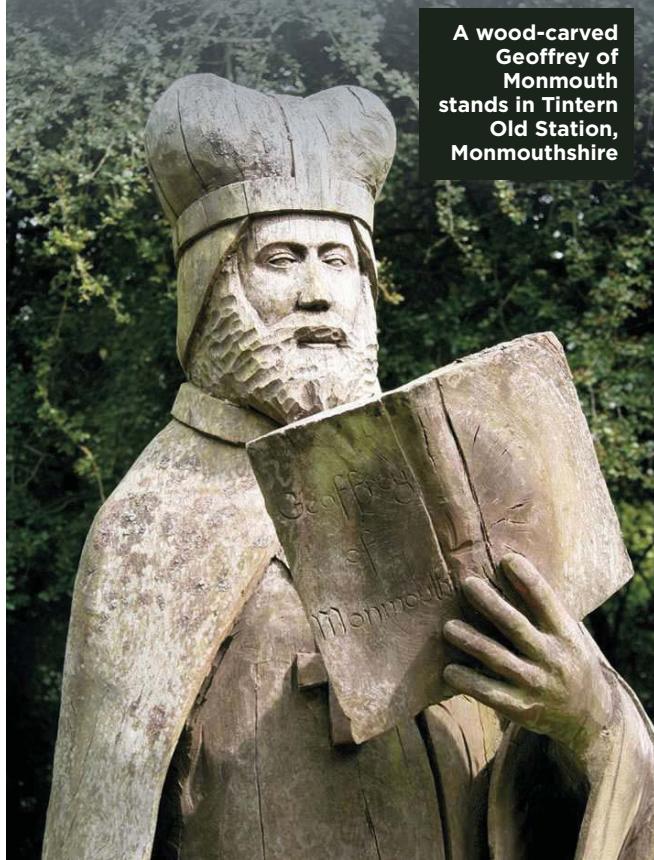
HISTORIAN OR FANTASIST? Geoffrey of Monmouth

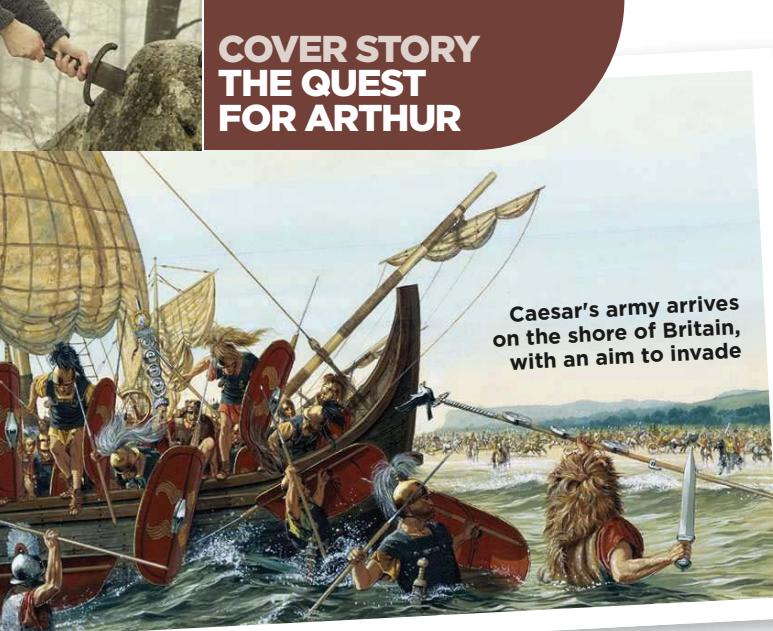
We know next to nothing about Geoffrey, whose association with Monmouth, at the borderlands between Wales and England, is unclear. He was certainly familiar with the geography of Cornwall, Brittany and South Wales, the Roman fortress town of Caerleon, near Monmouth, appearing many times in his text, and he may have been part Welsh or at least part Breton, working and researching in an England that was very much under the Norman yoke.

Geoffrey spent most of his working life in Oxford, his name appearing on a number of charters there, as *Galfridus Monemutensis* (Geoffrey of Monmouth) between 1129 and 1151, where he is referred to as magister or teacher. He may have been a canon of the secular college of St George in Oxford.

He apparently began writing the *Historia Regum Britanniae* at the request of Walter, archdeacon of Oxford, who presented him with 'an ancient book written in the British tongue' for him to translate into Latin. The book, as it developed, provided the British with their own heroic mythology: a national epic to rival any produced by the Saxons or Normans, propelling Arthur and many other distant kings, to the world stage.

In 1151, Geoffrey became Bishop Elect of St Asaph in North Wales and was ordained at Westminster the following year. There is no evidence that he took up the see, apparently dying four years later in 1155.





"This was no mere work of patriotic make-believe"

an ancient book "in the British tongue". The fact that he never named his source has led people to the conclusion that he simply made it all up. Having examined the *Historia* in detail, however, it's clear that this was no mere work of patriotic make-believe. On the contrary, there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the *Historia Regum Britanniae* was compiled from a variety of genuine sources, some of which, at least, date back to the first century BC.

SAME OLD STORY

Key to unlocking the secrets of Geoffrey's text lies in the story he tells of Julius Caesar's invasion of Britain, the first historical event in the book that can be independently verified from other sources. Caesar attacked Britain on two separate occasions, in 55 and 54 BC, the Roman general recording his exploits in a series of campaign diaries known today as the *Gallic Wars*. When describing the second invasion, Caesar establishes three protagonists: himself (the hero, naturally); a British king called Cassivellaunus (the villain); and a young British aristocrat called Mandubracius (a Roman ally). Geoffrey of Monmouth, however, describes the events of 54 BC twice, setting them down in the *Historia* as if they were two separate military operations. In the first, the aggressor, Caesar, is defeated by the heroic warrior-king Cassibellaunus at the "Battle of Dorobellum" and driven back into the sea. In the second, Cassibellaunus, now the bad guy, is interrupted from waging an unprovoked war on his rival Androgeus (Mandubracius) by the arrival of Caesar. At the Battle of Durobernia, Caesar prevails, thanks to the timely intervention of Androgeus on the Roman side. Despite having won, Caesar, in fear of Androgeus, departs from Britain's shores.

It is clear that in describing this campaign, Geoffrey was using two accounts of the same event but, rather critically, accounts written from two very different perspectives. The first, establishing Cassibellaunus

THE MAN BEHIND THE LEGEND

The real King Arthur

New research suggests that Arthur was actually a composite of five Dark Age characters – so who really made up the legendary king?

AMBROSIUS AURELIANUS

► The character of King Arthur, the heroic leader, gradually evolved in oral tradition as people celebrated and commemorated the very real fifth-century warlord Ambrosius Aurelianus. Aurelianus was "a gentleman", the sixth-century writer Gildas assures us, being "one of the last of the Romans" whose parents had undoubtedly "worn the purple". Wearing the purple was a euphemism for being emperor, the clothing dye being so expensive that it was reserved for the leader of state.

The fact that Gildas describes Aurelianus's parents in this way suggests that they possessed significant authority, probably as fourth-century usurpers or rebel emperors holding power in Britain. Gildas notes that Aurelianus was a successful general, defeating Saxon armies on many occasions, the greatest victory being the siege of Mount Badon. Unfortunately, we don't know who was besieging whom, nor indeed where 'Mount Badon' was (although Geoffrey of Monmouth later claims it was at Bath), but it was clearly a major engagement and was much celebrated, later becoming a key moment in Arthur's career.

By the ninth century, it is clear that the historical Aurelianus and the legendary Arthur were already starting to take different paths. In the *Historia Brittonum* (*History of the Britons*) compiled by Nennius, 'Arthur' has acquired a number of battles, chief among which was Aurelianus's victory at Mount Badon. Nennius also tells us that Aurelianus was fighting British enemies, worst of which was King Guorthigirnus (Vortigern), the man who first invited the Saxons to Britain. Geoffrey of Monmouth (who calls his hero Aurelius Ambrosius), says that Vortigern tried to hide in "the castle of Genoriu" but was besieged there, dying as his fortress burnt around him.

Having defeated the tyrant,

Ambrosius Aurelianus

established himself as master of

Britain, rebuilding London in the

process. In a grand ceremony,

staged within Stonehenge,

Aurelianus was crowned king.

Interestingly, archaeological evidence suggests that the internal bluestone setting at Stonehenge was modified in the post-Roman period. By the time Geoffrey of Monmouth wrote down the coronation story, it was the great sarsens of Stonehenge that were transported to Salisbury Plain from Ireland (with help from the wizard Merlin).

BROTHERS IN ARMS

Arviragus and Claudio are depicted embracing in this 12th-century illuminated manuscript by the poet Wace, canon of Bayeux.

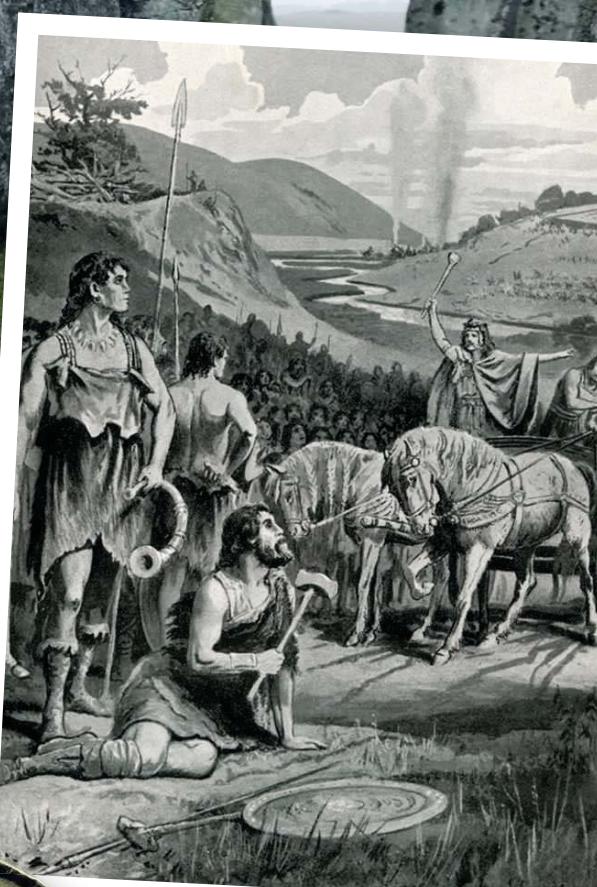
CONSTANTINE

► Constantine (later 'the Great') was proclaimed emperor by his men at York in AD 306. Taking troops from Britain and Gaul, he marched on Rome, killing the western emperor Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge in AD 312, before defeating the eastern emperor Licinius 12 years later. Much of his campaign, from York to Rome, is later mirrored in that of Arthur.





LEFT: Ambrosius Aurelianus charges into battle BELOW: Aurelianus was said to have been crowned at Stonehenge



ARVIRARGUS

◀ Arvirargus, or Togodumnus, was a British king from the first century AD who, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth, joined forces with the Roman emperor Claudius to subjugate the Orkneys. Returning home, Arvirargus married the Roman lady Gewissa, a 'great beauty'. In the *Historia*, Arthur joined forces with Hoel to subjugate Ireland before returning home to marry Ganhuma, a 'great beauty'



MAGNUS MAXIMUS

◀ In AD 383, Magnus Maximus, a Roman officer in Britain, was illegally proclaimed emperor. Determined to capture Rome, Maximus took an army to Gaul where he fought and killed the emperor Gratian. Later, in the *Historia Regum Britanniae*, Arthur, determined to capture Rome, takes an army to Gaul where he fights and kills the emperor Lucius Hiberius.

FACT

TINTAGEL

Cited as the place of Arthur's conception, Tintagel was indeed a significant fortress and port throughout the fifth and sixth centuries AD.

FACT

MORDRED

▼ The character of Mordred, the treacherous nephew, is based upon the first-century-BC king Mandubracius of the Trinovantes (in Essex), a prince who betrayed his uncle to Julius Caesar.

FACT

Mordred plotted against Sir Launcelot

FICTION

THE HOLY GRAIL

► Added in the late 12th century, the quest for the Holy Grail adds a greater sense of both chivalry and religious destiny to the story of Arthur.

Fact or fiction?

The truth behind the people, places and objects in the Arthur story

DID YOU KNOW?

As well as having a sword called Caliburn, Arthur, as he appears in the *Historia Regum Britanniae*, also had a shield called Pridwen and a spear called Ron.

⟨ (Cassivellaunus) as the hero, was generated by the supporters of the British king; the second, which portrays the king as a savage tyrant and Androgeus (Mandubracius) as a brave resistance leader, is undoubtedly derived from the followers of Cassivellaunus's rival. This revelation, in turn, helps to explain Geoffrey of Monmouth's comment, in the foreword to the *Historia*, that in his day the lives of the early British kings were "celebrated by many people by heart, as if they had been written". As one might expect for a pre-Roman Celtic society, tales of the great and good survived, well into the

Early Middle Ages, not because they had been transcribed but because they had been transmitted from generation to generation by word of mouth.

HIJACKING HISTORY

Geoffrey of Monmouth wrote for a purpose, hoping to establish both the primacy and antiquity of the British kings, demonstrating that their history was greater (and far more interesting) than those of either the Saxons or Normans. To do this, he brought together a disparate mass of source material, including folklore, chronicles, king-lists, dynastic tables, oral tales and

STILL STANDING

The ruins of Tintagel Castle can be found on the coast of Cornwall, one of the most-visited historic sites in Britain.

bardic praise poems. Information, not least of all concerning personal names, had become irrevocably garbled by the time Geoffrey of Monmouth encountered it, original meaning and context having been lost. To create a grand, uninterrupted narrative, Geoffrey exercised significant editorial control, massaging information, filling gaps and smoothing out inconsistencies. In doing so, he hijacked certain characters and stories from different time-periods and rearranged them in such a way that they created a continuous line of monarchs

FICTION

THE ROUND TABLE

▼ Added to the story of Arthur in the 12th and 13th centuries, the concept of the 'brotherhood of knights' appealed to the medieval concept of chivalry.



TABLE FABLE

The round table in Winchester's Great Hall is now known to have been **created in the 13th century**, to celebrate the betrothal of one of Edward I's daughters.



FACT

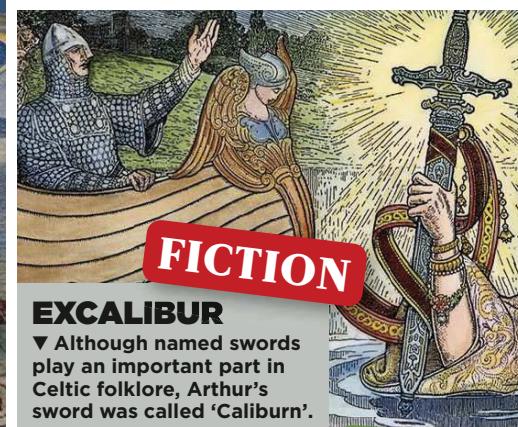
GUINEVERE

▲ According to Geoffrey of Monmouth, Arthur married Ganhuma; 'Guinevere' is a romanticised French version of the name created in the late 12th century.

FACT

KAY AND BEDEVERE

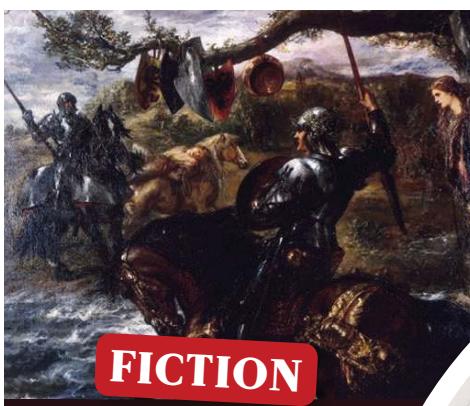
▼ Two of Arthur's most trusted colleagues appear in the *Historia Regum Britanniae*, but as Kaius and Beduerus.



FICTION

EXCALIBUR

▼ Although named swords play an important part in Celtic folklore, Arthur's sword was called 'Caliburn'.



FACT

MERLIN FACT

▼ In the earliest accounts, Merlin and Arthur never meet, the wizard being the chief advisor to Arthur's father Uther and his uncle, Ambrosius Aurelianus.

FICTION

THE SWORD IN THE STONE

▲ There is no mention of a sword in the stone prophecy for Arthur in the earliest accounts of his life; Arthur simply inherits the kingdom from his father, Uther.

stretching from deep time to the seventh century AD.

Much of the information deployed in the *Historia* came from two discrete sources. First, we have the orally transmitted, heroic tales of the Catuvellauni and Trinovantes, two tribes based in central south-eastern Britain at the very end of the Iron Age. And secondly, there are the king-lists of important post-Roman dynasties ruling territories in western Britain (primarily

Wales). Stretching this source material out, chopping, changing and re-editing it in the process, Geoffrey added additional information culled from later histories, including those of Gildas and Bede. At its core, then, the *Historia Regum Britanniae* is the tale of two tribes at a critical moment in history: the period of first contact with Rome. What Geoffrey did, then, was to expand the geography of the primary source material, away from central south-eastern England, in >

FICTION

LANCELOT

▲ There is no equivalent of Lancelot in the earliest accounts of Arthur, his queen Ganhuma instead committing adultery with Mordred.





COVER STORY THE QUEST FOR ARTHUR

BEYOND THE GRAIL

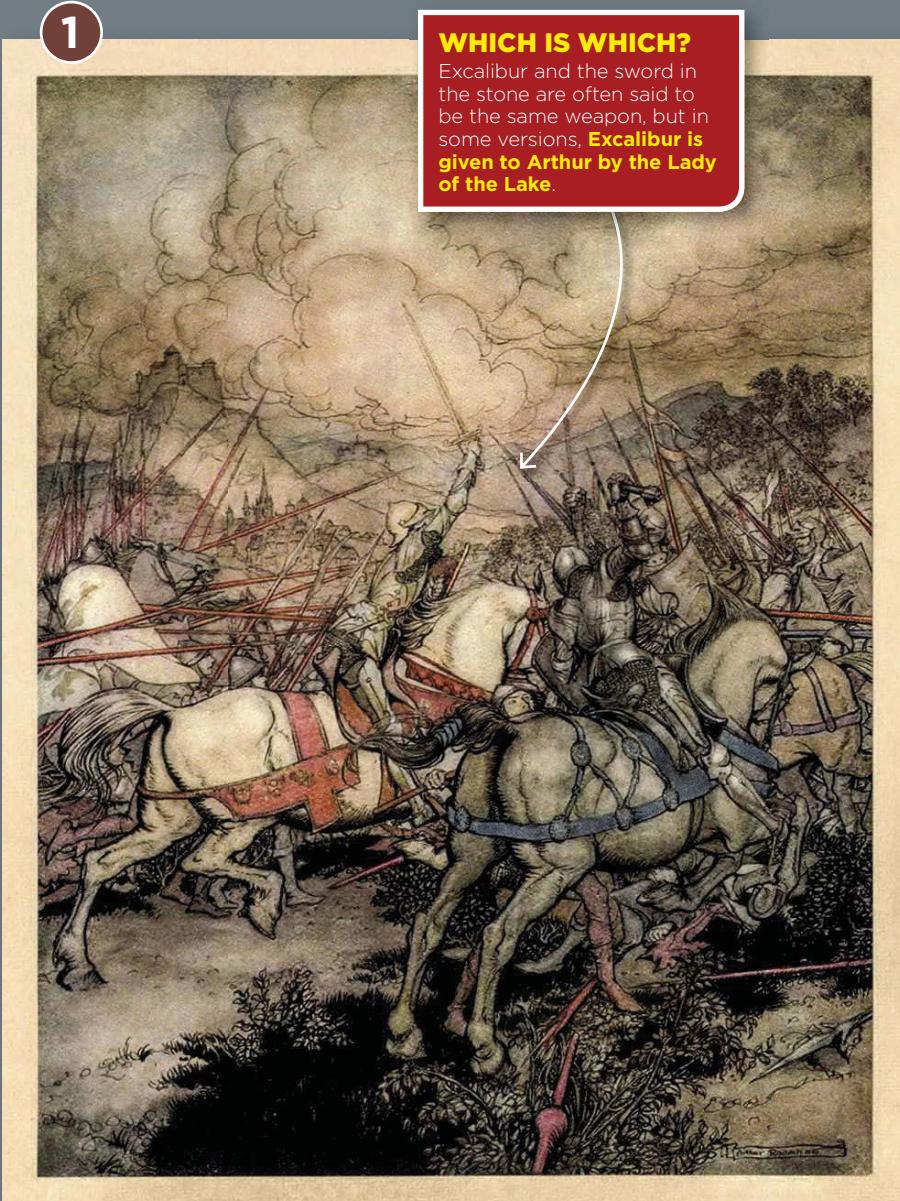
The making of a legend

Within a generation of Geoffrey of Monmouth's book, stories of King Arthur were appearing across Europe. The late-12th-century French poet, Chrétien de Troyes, introduced the concept of courtly love to the tale, adding Lancelot and his adulterous affair with Queen Guinevere, as well as 'the Quest', with Perceval seeking the Holy Grail. Arthur the chivalric king greatly influenced the Norman monarchy, Edward I establishing tournaments and, around 1290, commissioning a 'round table', which can still be seen in Winchester today, and Edward III creating the Order of the Garter in 1348. Henry Tudor also hijacked the story of Arthur in order to legitimise his rather shaky claim to the throne (going as far as naming his first-born son Arthur).

The development of Arthur the medieval king reached its climax in the late 15th century, with Thomas Malory's epic *Morte d'Arthur* (*The Death of Arthur*), the first account of the legend to appear in English and one of the first books, in 1485, to be printed. The 'Arthurian cycle' became popular again in the early 19th century, during the Gothic romantic revival, with William Wordsworth and Alfred Lord Tennyson, who in turn inspired the 'Pre-Raphaelite' movement, later writers (especially T H White and T S Eliot) and early 20th-century film makers. Over the years, Arthur has been rewritten and reshaped, becoming a hero to both rich and poor, the political elite and the revolutionary alike. His popularity shows no sign of fading away.



2



WHICH IS WHICH?

Excalibur and the sword in the stone are often said to be the same weapon, but in some versions, **Excalibur is given to Arthur by the Lady of the Lake**.



order to provide a greater sweep of the British Isles.

Once you accept that Geoffrey's *Historia* does not represent a single epic but a mass of unrelated stories woven together to form a grand narrative, individual tales can be identified, removed and returned to their correct time-period. The importance of this is that, as a history recorded by the Britons themselves, and not filtered through the eyes of a conquering power, such information completely reconfigures our understanding of the distant past, producing new ways of seeing how the Britons dealt with the arrival of Rome, and what happened following the collapse of Roman authority in the fifth century AD. It is clear that if we ignore Geoffrey of Monmouth, we are discarding a large dataset, turning our back on information that can significantly help us interpret the past.

UNEARTHING THE TRUTH

The account compiled in the *Historia Regum Britanniae* needs to be considered objectively if the origins and nature of Britain's most famous monarch, King Arthur, is to be understood. The curious irony about King Arthur is that, while everyone agrees that his rise to fame came thanks to Geoffrey of Monmouth, the search for a real, 'historical' Arthur means that few people look in detail, or indeed at all, at the *Historia* for clues to his context and identity. If one is trying to establish the existence of the true Arthur as a post-Roman warlord, then, it is

usually reasoned, the *Historia* is too implausible and just too weird to be taken seriously. The anachronistic detail, coupled with the unreal and obviously fantastical elements, all conspire to make Geoffrey's book – the very thing that catapulted Arthur to international celebrity-status – unreliable. Hence when we look at the hundreds of articles and books generated every year that claim to have unearthed new and exciting clues as to the existence of King Arthur, Geoffrey of Monmouth is not consulted. More often, he is rejected out of hand in favour of 'more reliable' sources. If we wish to resolve who King Arthur was, however, we cannot afford to be so picky.

Key elements of the Arthur story, such as his parentage, conception, association with Merlin, marriage to Guinevere, establishment of a great kingdom, betrayal and final disappearance, all take form in the *Historia Regum Britanniae*. Major plot details, however, are notably

DID YOU KNOW?

In the earliest accounts, Arthur had a sister, Anna, who became queen of Brittany. She is not mentioned in later versions of the story.



A 14th-century illumination showing King Arthur defeating a Saxon army

absent, there being no Lancelot, Camelot, Holy Grail, sword-in-the-stone or chivalric order of the round table. These all represent later 'add-ons', significantly expanding the original narrative, reordering key events and making the story relevant for each subsequent age. This process, of course, continues to the present day. If we want to find the truth behind the story of the 'Once and Future King', however, it is important to understand exactly what Geoffrey of Monmouth said, cutting away all later elaboration.

In the *Historia*, Arthur is conceived at Tintagel, born from the union of Uther Pendragon and Ygerna, Duchess of Cornwall, who is deceived into thinking Uther is her husband Gorlois. With Gorlois dead, Uther marries Ygerna and they have a second child, Anna. Ascending the throne, aged 15, Arthur

"He is rejected out of hand in favour of 'reliable' sources"

TOP FIVE ADAPTATIONS

The Arthurian legend, as seen on screen



KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE (1953)

A glorious Technicolor version was released in 1953, with a glittering Hollywood cast. Starring Robert Taylor, Ava Gardner and Stanley Baker, it was shot on location at Tintagel, the supposed place of Arthur's conception.

MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL (1975)

Surely the funniest Arthurian adaptation, it's seen as a modern classic. Featuring memorable scenes such as, "it's just a flesh wound", the Knights who say "Ni!" and murderous rabbits, it's a real all-time favourite.

EXCALIBUR (1981)

A big 1980s blockbuster such as this one can hardly fail to please audiences, especially if it has a heavy amount of dazzling visuals. Based on the 15th-century work of Thomas Malory, some say it helped launch the careers of a young Helen Mirren and Liam Neeson.

KING ARTHUR (2004)

Disney's live-action movie about Arthur, Guinevere and Lancelot was marketed on a basis of better historical accuracy, but was more or less anything but. Arthur is a Roman military officer, and Guinevere is the stubborn, *Braveheart*-styled daughter of Merlin.

MERLIN (2008)

This BBC reworking of the legend is about as fantastical as it gets. Featuring talking dragons and embittered family members with magic powers, Merlin serves as Arthur's adviser and friend, but must keep his sorcery skills under wraps if he is to escape harsh punishment.

KING ARTHUR

NUMBERS GAME



15

The age at which, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth, Arthur became king



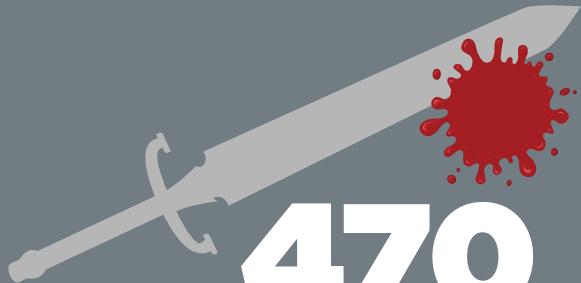
1136

The year Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae* was completed



400,160

The number of troops deployed against Arthur by the Roman emperor, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth



470

The number of men killed by Arthur alone at the Battle of Mount Badon, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth



12

The number of battle victories credited to Arthur in the 9th-century *Historia Brittonum*

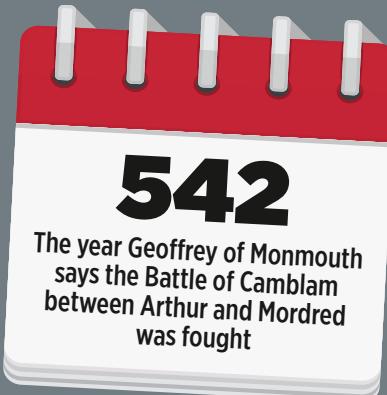


960

The number of men killed by Arthur in the earliest account of the Battle of Mount Badon, appearing in the *Historia Brittonum*

183,300

The number of men that Geoffrey of Monmouth tells us Arthur took on his invasion of France



542

The year Geoffrey of Monmouth says the Battle of Camlann between Arthur and Mordred was fought



Arthur is said to have been killed in the Battle of Camlann, fighting his enemy Mordred

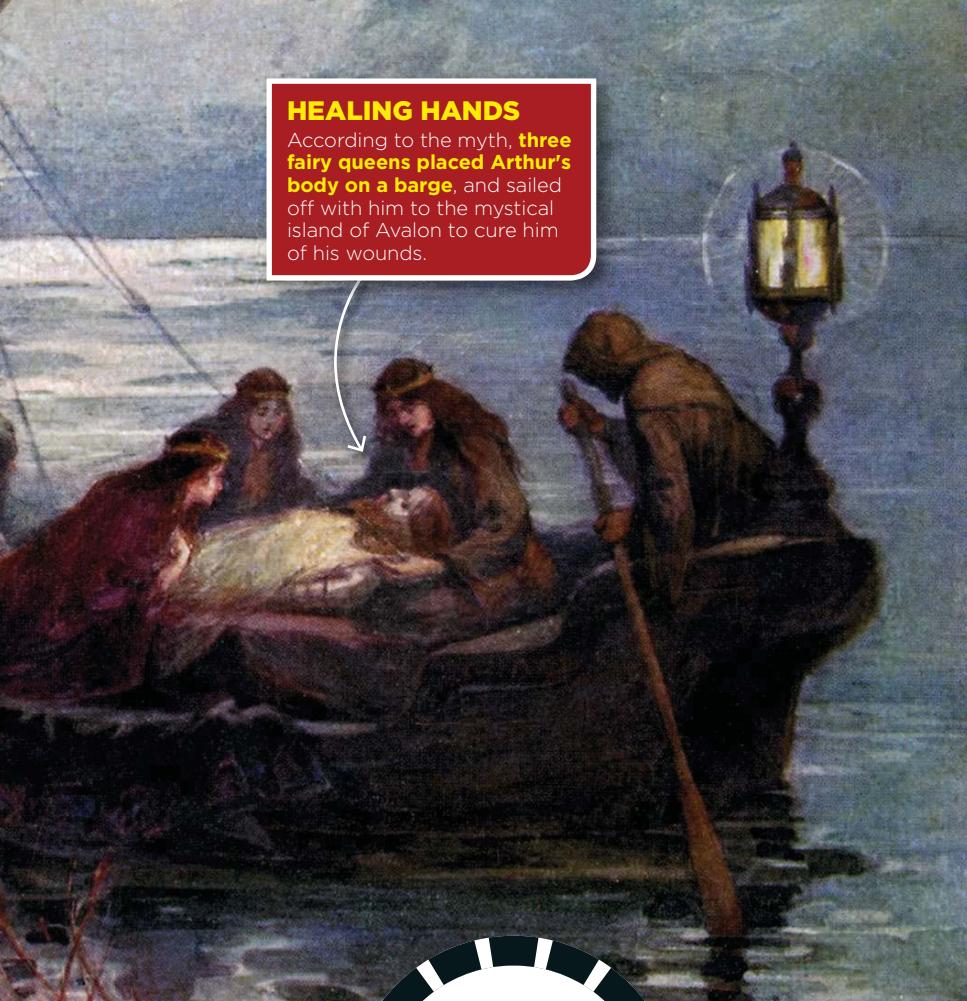
defeats the Saxons at York, rebuilds London and then, together with his nephew Hoel, king of Brittany, inflicts further defeats upon the invaders at Lincoln and Bath before crushing a combined force of Picts and Irish tribes at Loch Lomond. Marrying Ganhuma, a woman "descended from a noble Roman family", Arthur and Hoel then attack Ireland, the Orkneys, Iceland and Sweden, forcing the people to their will. Deciding on further conquest, Arthur launches an invasion of Norway and Gaul (France), laying waste to the fields, burning towns and slaughtering the native population. Later, establishing a court at Caerleon in Wales, Arthur is annoyed to find himself summoned by the Roman emperor to be tried for war crimes. Gathering an army of over 180,000 men, he sails to Gaul where he defeats and kills the emperor. Determined to capture Rome, Arthur is forced to return to Britain on hearing that his treacherous nephew Mordred has adulterously taken Ganhuma and seized the kingdom. In a bloody civil war in which many thousands die, both Mordred and Arthur fall, Arthur's body being carried off to Avalon. With most of the crowned heads of western Europe now dead, the kingdom of Britain is handed to Arthur's cousin, Constantine of Cornwall.

The Arthur described by Geoffrey of Monmouth is a curiously unlikeable



HEALING HANDS

According to the myth, **three fairy queens placed Arthur's body on a barge**, and sailed off with him to the mystical island of Avalon to cure him of his wounds.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the earliest version of Arthur's life, his kingdom extends to cover England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Iceland, Sweden and Norway.

the ultimate victory of his career, can be shown to be a conflict won by another warleader called Ambrosius Aurelianus. Arthur, as an independent character, was never there.

It was, in fact, the exploits of Aurelianus which appear to have influenced the development of the legendary king, forming at least half of Arthur's story as recorded by Geoffrey. Other historical characters are also discernible in the great Arthurian mix and, once you detach their stories from the narrative in the *Historia*, there is nothing left for Arthur.

The reason so many academics and researchers today find echoes of King Arthur in both history and archaeology is because Arthur is himself an echo. As an independent character, he simply never existed. ☺

character, at least by the standards of today. He is arrogant, proud, aggressive and quick to anger, committing unprovoked war in Europe, in which thousands of towns are destroyed and countless men, women and children slaughtered. In Geoffrey's account, there is no room for chivalry or courtly love; this is the macho world of the warrior-elite in which only those who fight well are considered worthy of praise. Later generations lightened the blood-soaked narrative, adding magic (Merlin), chivalric heroes (Kay and Bedevere), an ultimate foe (Morgana) and a doomed love triangle (Arthur/Guinevere/Lancelot) as well as developing themes such as the quest for the Holy Grail and the establishment of Camelot.

NOTHING LEFT

A close study of the *Historia Regum Britanniae*, however, shows that King Arthur cannot have existed; at least in the form that Geoffrey of Monmouth presents him. In Geoffrey's account, Arthur is the ultimate composite character, inhabiting a world where everything that happens to him has already happened to other people. There is nothing in Arthur's story that is truly original – even the Battle of Badon Hill, which is usually treated as

GET HOOKED

READ

Miles Russell's book *Arthur and the Kings of Britain* is published by Amberley Publishing and is available to buy for £20.00.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Did a King Arthur ever exist, or is he purely a figment of the imagination?

email: editor@historyrevealed.com

EXPERT OPINION

The quest for Arthur



MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University

Q When did you first become interested in the story of Arthur?

A I think, like a lot of children, I was fascinated by King Arthur, the 'Once and Future King', whose tale could be found in many books. Growing up, Arthur was never away from the cinema and always on TV – the sense of justice, the heroism, castles, magic, prophecy and knights in armour hitting one another with swords being a heady mix for a child! As a student, I encountered the books of Geoffrey Ashe, a historian who used archaeology and history in the search for a real Arthur, and the excavations at Cadbury and Tintagel, which were starting to fill in the gaps to our understanding of fifth- and sixth-century Britain. All of this got me thinking...

Q When did you realise that Geoffrey of Monmouth held the key?

A It always struck me as odd that, although Geoffrey of Monmouth made King Arthur into a superstar, no one ever looked at his work, dismissing it as fantastical nonsense. It bothered me that no one really knew, or seemed to care, that Arthur was only a part of the *Historia Regum Britanniae* and that there was much else in there, relating to periods before Arthur, that could actually be verified by new-found archaeological evidence. I decided to examine the book objectively to see if there was a way of understanding how (and from where) the source material had derived. In doing so, the whole character and nature of King Arthur as Geoffrey of Monmouth describes him was suddenly laid bare.

Q How much more is there to uncover?

A Lots! Although certain aspects of the *Historia Regum Britanniae* have now been identified, there is much more that remains poorly understood – Geoffrey of Monmouth still has many more secrets to uncover. The legend of King Arthur continues to be popular, and quite rightly so, but we have a real character to pursue now – Ambrosius Aurelianus: the true 'Once and Future King'.

THE DOOMED ALLIANCE OF THOMAS CROMWELL & ANNE BOLEYN

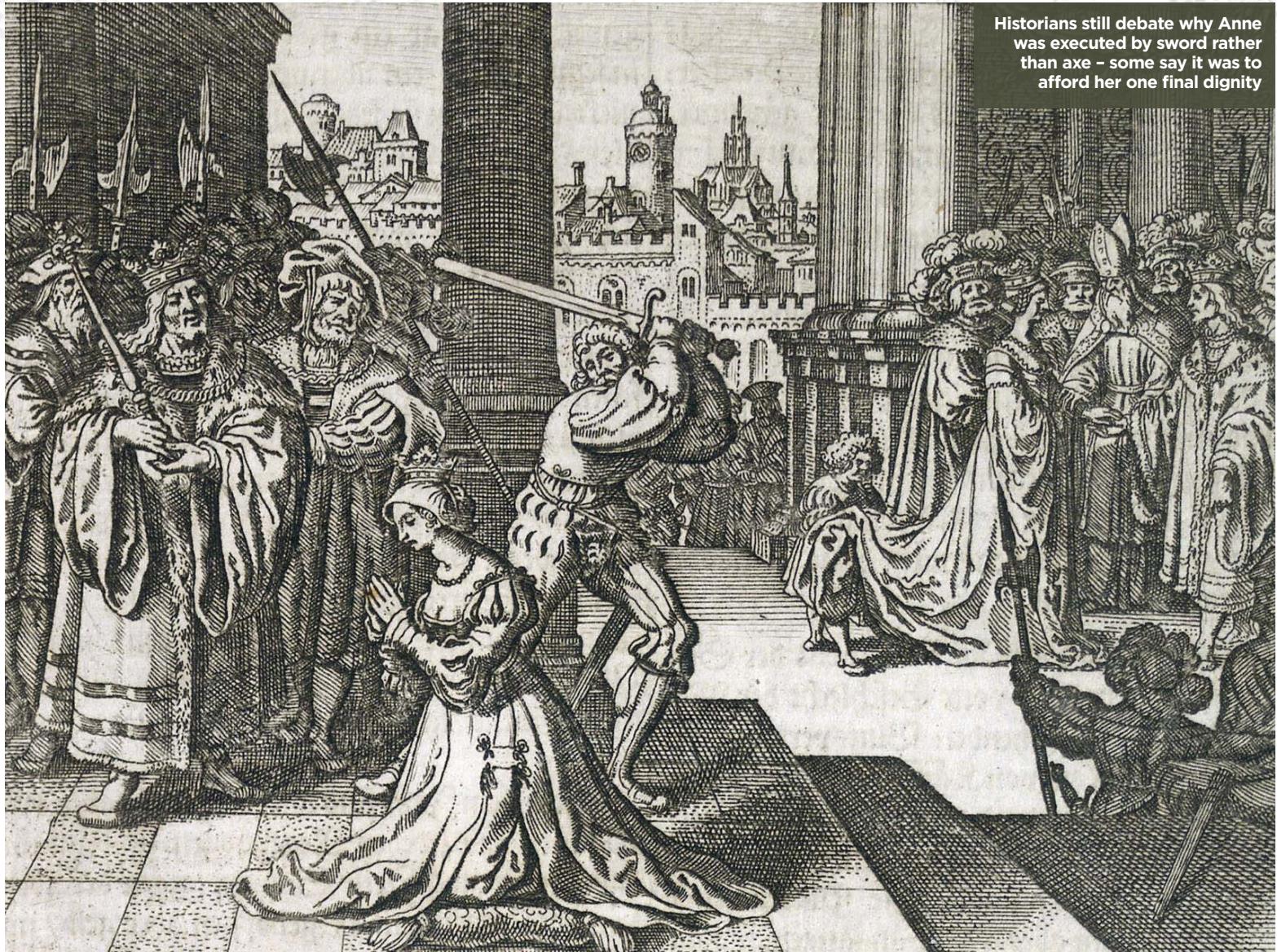
From the back streets of Putney to the court of Henry VIII, Thomas Cromwell's climb to power was largely thanks to Anne Boleyn. But it was to be a short-lived friendship, as **Lottie Goldfinch** reveals





FRIEND AND FOE

Thomas Cromwell was instrumental in ensuring Anne Boleyn's rise to queen, but also in her execution



Historians still debate why Anne was executed by sword rather than axe – some say it was to afford her one final dignity

At 9am on 19 May 1536, as London began another busy day, a young woman was escorted through the courtyard at the Tower of London. Dressed conservatively in a black robe, flanked by four servants, she walked slowly towards the black-draped scaffold that had been erected for her execution. The 1,000-strong crowd murmured as she mounted the scaffold steps and turned to face them.

This was no petty criminal. The woman preparing to meet her end was none other than Anne Boleyn, Queen of England; the woman for whom King Henry VIII had overturned his country's religion, set aside a wife and queen of 24 years, and taken on the might of the Pope and Rome.

LAST DIGNITY

The execution had been scheduled for 9am the previous day, but had been postponed, first by three hours and then rescheduled for the

following morning. The official reason given for the delay was that the French executioner hired to perform the bloody task had not yet arrived in England. Unofficially, it seemed Henry – keen to re-marry – was waiting impatiently for the once longed-for marriage to be formally annulled. “I heard say the executioner was

of horror and fascination. Perhaps wishing to avoid protests from the Queen's supporters, or maybe to afford her one last dignity as queen, the time and date of Anne's execution had not been announced. Nevertheless, commoners and nobility alike thronged through the open gates of the Tower to watch the gruesome spectacle.

One face among them had more reason than most to claim a front row seat: Thomas Cromwell – Henry's chief minister and right-hand man, who, by orchestrating the King's separation from his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, had paved the way for Anne's meteoric rise to queen of England. But as Henry's relationship with Anne soured over her perceived inability to provide him with a much-desired male heir, it was down to Cromwell to provide him with a way out of the marriage.

As the blade flashed through the air, severing Anne's head from her body, Cromwell must surely have allowed himself a small nod of satisfaction at the conclusion of a bloody day's work, little knowing that in just four short

“Cromwell must surely have allowed himself a small nod of satisfaction”

very good and I have but a little neck,” Anne was reported to comment upon hearing of her temporary reprieve, placing her hands around her own throat.

The next day, as Anne knelt in the straw and awaited the blow that would end her life, those around her looked on with a mixture

years, he too would make his own final journey to the scaffold.

BASE-BORN AND BRED

Cromwell's ascent to power was no less spectacular than Anne's. Born in 1485 in the back streets of Putney, his childhood was rough and short-lived. His father, a brewer, tavern owner and something of a jack-of-all-trades, appears at least 48 times on manor court rolls for misdemeanours such as assault. Small wonder, perhaps, that at the age of 15, Cromwell ran away from home, stowing away on a ship bound for the Netherlands. After some time in Italy with a prominent banking family, Cromwell – now fluent in French, Italian and with a good grasp of Latin – became a trader in his own right, and in 1517 returned to England.

Cromwell's first taste of English politics came in 1520, when he entered the service of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, then chief advisor to Henry VIII. Wolsey, a butcher's son of humble origins, clearly recognised something of himself in Cromwell and took the young man under his wing, making him his legal secretary. The Cardinal's instincts paid off, and in 1523 Cromwell became a Member of Parliament for Taunton, earning himself a reputation as a shrewd and talented politician and as something of a 'fixer'. But in 1529, Cromwell's bright future looked to come to a grinding halt when his mentor fell spectacularly from royal favour.

King Henry VIII had been married to his former sister-in-law, the Spanish princess Catherine of Aragon, for 20 years, but the marriage had failed to produce a living male heir, only a daughter, Mary. The once-



Cardinal Wolsey dominated Henry VIII's government until he failed to annul the King's marriage to Catherine of Aragon

CARDINAL RULE

Wolsey's protégé

Thomas Cromwell owes his entrance to court to Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, Lord Chancellor to Henry VIII. Wolsey's power in England during the 1520s was immense, and it was through him that Cromwell learned what to do, and what not to do, when serving the King. By 1529, Cromwell had become one of Wolsey's most trusted advisors, and in turn, Cromwell was a loyal member of his household, refusing to turn against his master when he fell from favour.

But Wolsey was unpopular – not least with Anne Boleyn. Impatient with Wolsey's failure to secure an annulment for the King's first marriage, Anne orchestrated his downfall. She railed at Henry, bemoaning her wasted youth and the threat to her reputation that her relationship with the King posed, and vowed to leave him. Anne's plan worked and, on 4 November 1530, Wolsey was arrested for treason and removed from office.

happy relationship was souring, and Henry's roving eye was now set on a new prize: the sophisticated, witty and charming Anne Boleyn. Convinced that God was punishing him for marrying his brother's widow, desperate for a son and equally desperate to bed Anne, who was refusing his amorous advances, Henry

➤

Anne Boleyn plays the lute for Henry while his wife, Catherine of Aragon, looks on from the doorway



Cromwell's close relationship with King Henry VIII is depicted in BBC Two's *Wolf Hall*

THE CROMWELL EFFECT

England's greatest politician?

Thomas Cromwell's reputation has undergone much scrutiny over recent years, but his achievements and character are still much debated by historians. He is seen by many as the first modern politician - a self-made man in a world of strict hierarchy, who changed the face of England. To others he was a 'thug in a doublet', meekly doing the bidding of Henry VIII, unpopular with Roman Catholics and responsible for the destruction of the monasteries, which saw countless works of art and architecture disappear from British history. But his legacy is undeniable, and many of his policies and innovations survive today.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RELIGION

In 1539, Cromwell oversaw the publication of the Bible in English, something that had previously been forbidden. For the first time, people could read the Bible in their own language, and a copy was placed in every English church.

CORRUPTION

He introduced a more centrally controlled, bureaucratic form of government that sought to recruit men who wished to serve for the good of the kingdom rather than for their own self-advancement. Senior offices in royal government became almost entirely the preserve of laymen.

RECORD-KEEPING

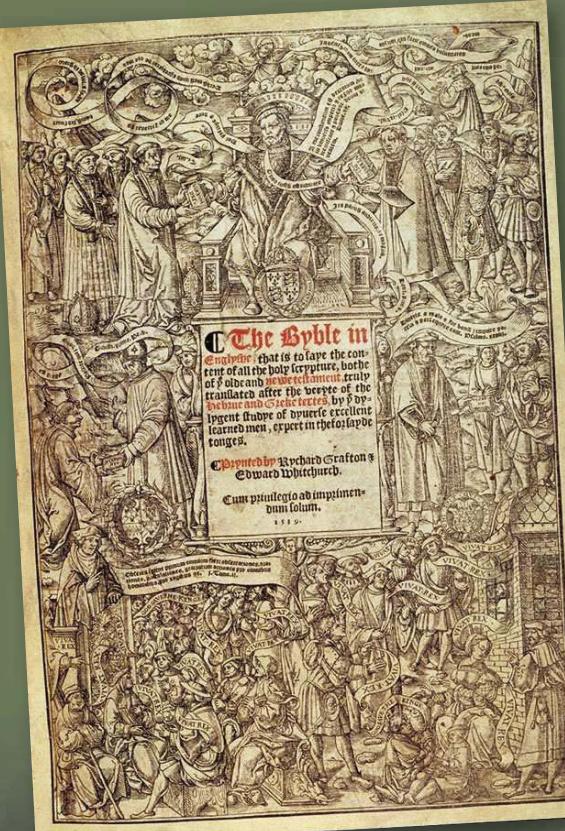
Under Cromwell, a mandate in 1538 ordered parish churches to keep a record of all baptisms, marriages and burials that took place.

REPRESENTATION

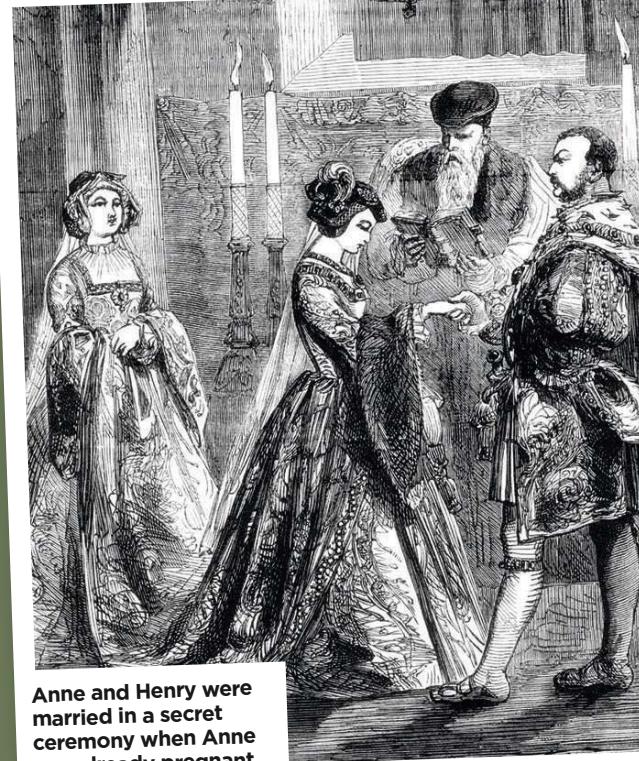
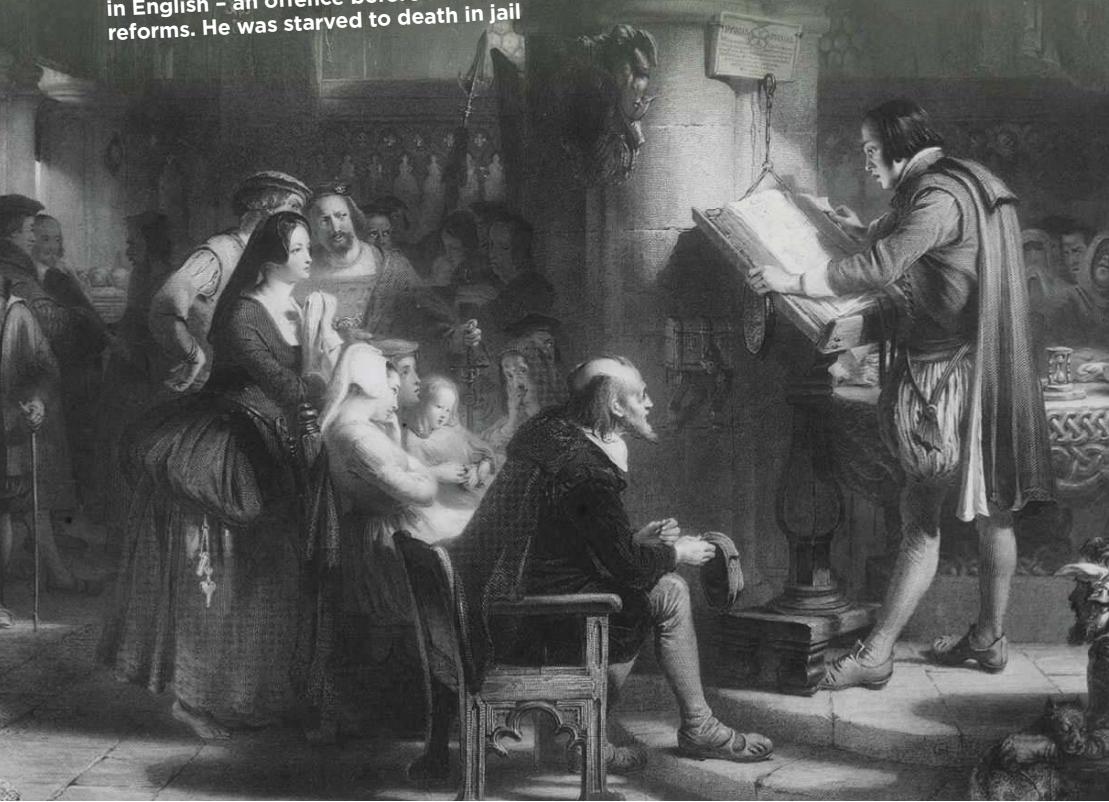
Cromwell extended sovereign authority into northern England, Wales and Ireland, and by 1543, Wales had gained parliamentary representation.

WELFARE

The King's right-hand man attempted to establish a national system of poor relief that would provide financial aid to those unable to work, laying the groundwork for a welfare state.



ABOVE: The title page of the Bible in English
BELOW: A tailor, John Porter, reads the Bible in English - an offence before Cromwell's reforms. He was starved to death in jail



Anne and Henry were married in a secret ceremony when Anne was already pregnant

decided that the marriage must be annulled. And quickly.

Wolsey was given the seemingly impossible job of securing the annulment, using his considerable influence to convince the Pope that Henry and Catherine had, in the eyes of God, been living in sin. Although Pope Clement VII reluctantly granted a papal commission to try the case, it soon became clear that Rome was never going to grant Henry dispensation to divorce Catherine. By August 1529, it was evident that Wolsey had failed. A furious Henry stripped the aging cardinal of his government titles and, in 1530, summoned him to London to answer charges of treason. Perhaps fortunately, Wolsey died en route.

Cromwell's future hung in the balance, but the wily politician's considerable talents had by now come to Henry's notice and, in 1531, he was given a place on the Privy Council as one of the King's advisors. With the King's ear, Cromwell could now outline his revolutionary idea: if Rome would not grant a dispensation, then England must dispense with Rome.

MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE

Cromwell's plan to break with Rome and make Henry head of the English church was pleasing to both Henry and Anne. Although Henry was a Catholic, he resented the power of the Pope and the many taxes paid to Rome each year. The break with Rome meant Henry was now answerable only to God and not to a far-off power outside of England's borders. What's more, the King's marriage to Catherine could now be annulled, leaving him free to marry Anne who, by 1533, had given in to his advances and was now pregnant.

In January 1533, Henry and Anne were married in a secret ceremony and in June



Henry declares himself Supreme Head of the Church of England



Actress Claire Foy received a BAFTA nomination for her portrayal of Anne in *Wolf Hall*

that year, she was crowned queen in a lavish ceremony at Westminster Abbey. Henry's gratitude to Cromwell was enormous and he was granted positions in three major government institutions: the royal household, the Chancery and the Exchequer.

Throughout what became known as the King's Great Matter, Anne and Cromwell became natural allies, working towards the same goal. Both had the ear of the King and recognised the influence that the other could wield over Henry. And they were more than just political allies. Cromwell had long harboured Protestant sympathies, while Anne, too, had an interest in what was deemed the 'New Religion', and is thought by many to have been an ardent reformer. Certainly, Anne is known to have owned a copy of English reformer William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament, printed in the English vernacular, as well as his 1528 work, *The Obedience of the Christian Man*, which she persuaded Henry to read. Both were deemed heretical by the Catholic Church for placing kings above the rule of the Pope and answerable only to God. Henry was delighted with it.

Cromwell, too, is generally thought to have been a committed Protestant, probably as a result of his time spent in the Netherlands as a young man, but his campaign for religious

reform is usually attributed to a personal desire for self-promotion, rather than religious devotion.

CLASH OF WILLS

Anne and Cromwell, while wary of the other's power and influence over the King, were allies for as long as the other served their own personal ambition. But cracks in their relationship began to show as the English Reformation took off.

"Cromwell was furious. The battle lines had been drawn"

In 1535, Cromwell was appointed vicar-general, a role that effectively made him Henry's deputy as Supreme Head of the Church of England. He quickly set about investigating the running of the country's 563 religious houses and the wealth they held. Agents of the King presented damning reports about England's monasteries – from theft and corruption to

sexual failings and drunkenness. In February 1536, Cromwell proposed that the country's monasteries be dissolved by act of parliament and their wealth diverted to the royal coffers. Anne, however, campaigned for the seized assets to be used for education, reform and charitable causes.

The pair argued viciously over the matter and in April 1536, Anne instructed her almoner John Skip to make his Passion Sunday sermon a thinly veiled attack on Cromwell. In it, Skip bid the King be "wise in himself and resisting evil counsellors who tempted him to ignoble actions," comparing these "evil councillors" to Haman, the enemy of Queen Esther in the Old Testament, who persecuted Jews and diverted their riches to her royal treasury. Haman, tellingly, met his end on the scaffold. Cromwell was furious. The battle lines had been drawn.

FALL FROM GRACE

It is probable that as long as Henry was happy with his queen, Cromwell would have done

GOLDEN BOY TO GONE BOY

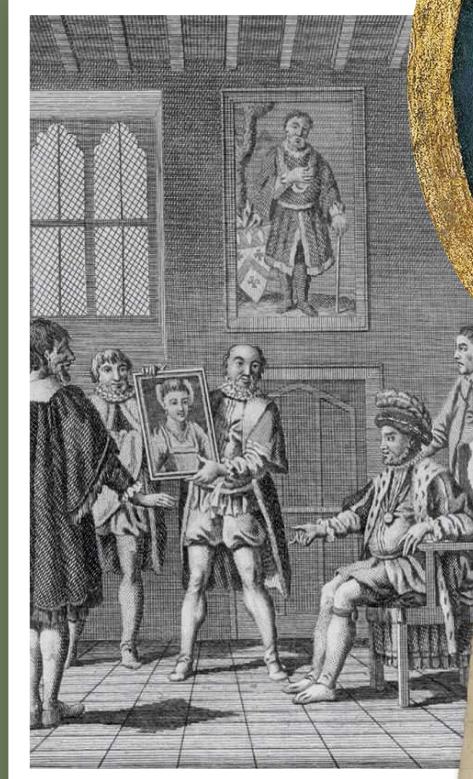
How Cromwell met his end

By 1536, Cromwell's position as Henry's right-hand man had never looked so secure. He had delivered the King from two failed marriages and had paved the way for Henry to marry his third wife, Jane Seymour. When Jane gave birth to Henry's longed-for son the following October, Cromwell must have felt invincible.

But just two weeks after her son's birth, Jane Seymour died, leaving Henry in need of a new queen to secure the Tudor dynasty. Cromwell scoured Europe for a suitor, but it was no easy task: a future queen must be pleasing to Henry, but also able to provide England with allies against the Catholic powers. Cromwell proposed Anne of Cleves, the 22-year-old daughter of the late Johan III, Duke of Juliers-Cleves, a state in what is now modern Germany.

Henry was horrified by his new wife. "I like her not! I like her not!" he railed at Cromwell. But for the first time, Cromwell was unable to fix the situation without causing a diplomatic incident, and Henry was forced to marry Anne. The King was livid, and set the blame for his unhappiness firmly at Cromwell's door. Seeing Cromwell fall rapidly from grace, his opponents at court moved in on him and, in June 1540, he was arrested for treason. Six weeks later, with the King no longer willing to protect him, Cromwell was executed.

ALAMY XL BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, GETTY X2



ABOVE: Cromwell presents a portrait of Anne of Cleves to Henry
RIGHT: A letter sent to Henry by Cromwell after his arrest, in which he protests his innocence



little to rock the boat, but the King, too, was losing patience with Anne over her failure to produce a living son. What's more, Henry had a new romantic interest – Jane Seymour – and was once again looking for a way to set aside his current queen. Perhaps fearing Anne's continued influence over the King if she remained in power, or perhaps simply

wishing to fulfil his master's wishes, Cromwell was only too happy to assist.

Ultimately, it was Anne herself who provided Cromwell with the ammunition he needed to orchestrate her downfall. Her flirtatious manner and plethora of male admirers are well recorded, but in April 1536, rumours of her infidelity reached an increasingly paranoid and

suspicious king. Cromwell was ordered to investigate the Queen's alleged 'loose living'. Among those questioned was musician Mark Smeaton who admitted – perhaps under torture – to having had sex with the Queen. Others were also accused of infidelity with Anne, including her own brother, George.

With the evidence gathering against her, Anne was arrested on charges of adultery, incest and conspiring the King's death, and brought to a trial that

could have only one outcome. Cromwell's own role in Anne's death is still hotly debated. To some, he is an arch-manipulator who feared Anne's power and set about to destroy her influence over the King. To others, he was simply acting in the best interests of his master, who, just ten days after Anne's death, married his third wife. Most historians conclude that there was little genuine friendship between Anne and Cromwell – each served the other's needs until they were of no more use. Henry himself was pivotal in Anne's death, and the longing he once felt for the woman he waited seven years to wed slowly turned to loathing and suspicion.

Cromwell would himself eventually feel the wrath of his king and see his own spectacular fall from grace. But his role in the English Reformation and his journey from Putney ruffian to Henry VIII's right-hand man has led to many people viewing him as the first truly modern politician. ◎



An allegory of Henry with his son Edward and third wife Jane Seymour, painted after her death

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Was Cromwell a saint or a sinner? Did he get his just deserts?
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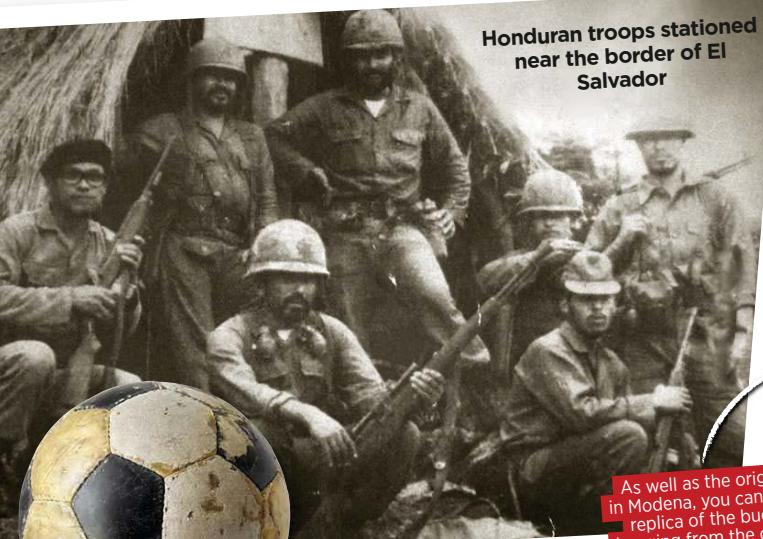
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The war of what?!

It can be hard to take a conflict seriously when it's named after a slap-up dinner... or a farmyard animal, for that matter



FOOTBALL WAR

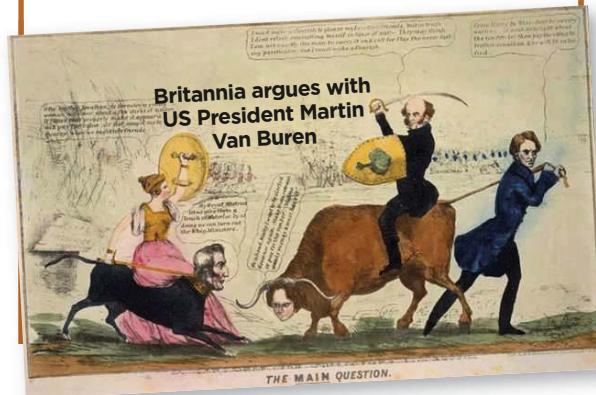
EL SALVADOR VS HONDURAS, 1969

Though its fans can be rowdy, football is not normally known for starting wars. But in 1969, deep-rooted mutual suspicion between El Salvador and Honduras regarding issues such as immigration boiled over in a World Cup qualifier match between the two countries. Nationalistic riots broke out, the military was dispatched and diplomatic relations were severed. Though the war was over within 100 hours, there were about 3,000 casualties.

PORK AND BEANS WAR

BRITAIN VS USA, 1838-39

Also known as the Aroostook War, this was the result of a border dispute between Britain and the USA. In 1839, both sent troops to the Aroostook Valley, on the Canada-Maine border, after there was confusion as to where the border actually lay. Fighting never broke out, and the incident gained its name from either the diet of local lumberjacks or the rations the British soldiers were given.



The bucket was the subject of a 17th-century poem by Alessandro Tassoni

WAR OF THE OAKEN BUCKET

BOLOGNA VS MODENA, 1325

Back when Italy was a collection of city-states, these two rivals went to war in 1325 when Modenese soldiers pilfered one of the buckets in Bologna's city wells. Modena won the war's only battle, despite Bologna's 30,000 troops. Visitors to Modena will find the bucket in question at the city hall.

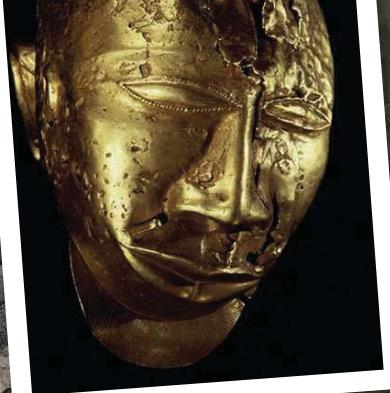
WAR OF JENKINS' EAR

BRITAIN VS SPAIN, 1739-48

Robert Jenkins was a ship's captain who had his ear cut off in 1731 by a Spanish coastguard during an argument. Britain, looking for an excuse to win a war with Spain, dredged up the incident in 1738. They believed it would improve their trading opportunities in the Caribbean, but the ensuing war proved to be costly both financially and in terms of human life – over 40,000 British and colonial troops were lost.

Despite the rumours, Jenkins never brought his ear to Parliament





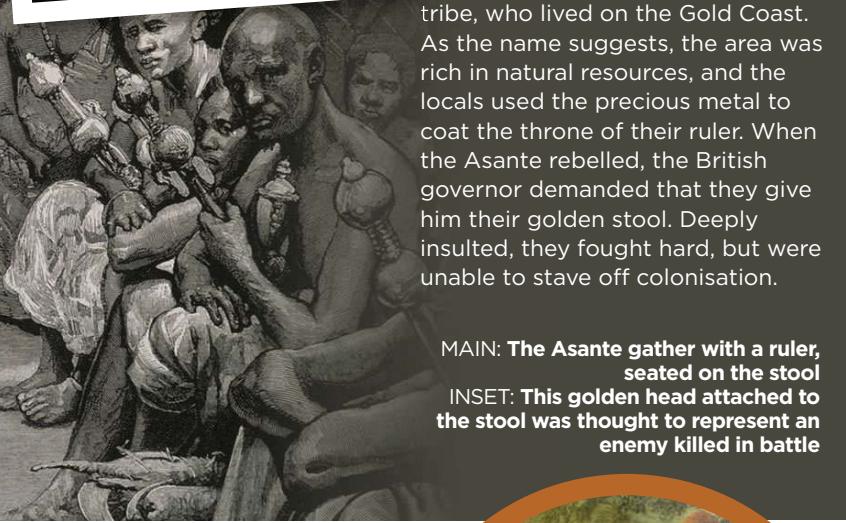
WAR OF THE GOLDEN STOOL

BRITAIN VS ASANTE EMPIRE, 1900

At the turn of the 20th century, Britain was keen to expand its African empire. This brought its forces into contact with the Asante tribe, who lived on the Gold Coast. As the name suggests, the area was rich in natural resources, and the locals used the precious metal to coat the throne of their ruler. When the Asante rebelled, the British governor demanded that they give him their golden stool. Deeply insulted, they fought hard, but were unable to stave off colonisation.

MAIN: The Asante gather with a ruler, seated on the stool

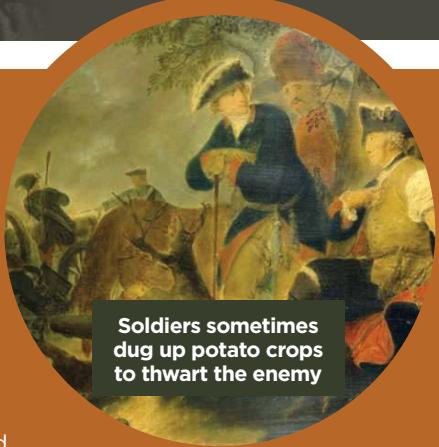
INSET: This golden head attached to the stool was thought to represent an enemy killed in battle



POTATO WAR/PLUM FUSS

AUSTRIA VS PRUSSIA, SAXONY AND BAVARIA, 1778-79

The War of the Bavarian Succession in 1778 involved many of Europe's German-speaking powers, and aimed to stop the Habsburgs gaining control of Bavaria. It only consisted of a few small skirmishes, yet thousands died of starvation, so soldiers spent most of their time searching for food. The Prussians and Saxons called it the Kartoffelkrieg (Potato War), but the Austrians preferred the daintier Zwetschgenrummel (Plum Fuss).



Soldiers sometimes dug up potato crops to thwart the enemy

PIG WAR

BRITAIN VS USA, 1859

On an island between Washington State and British Columbia that was claimed by both Britain and the USA, a fed-up farmer shot a pig in 1859 that repeatedly strayed onto his land. The owner of the hog was an Irishman, who demanded \$100 compensation. When the American refused to pay up, Britain threatened to arrest him, while American settlers called for his military protection. The government of both nations delivered, sending troops to the island, but neither side ever fired a single shot. King Wilhelm I was called to arbitrate the dispute, which took 15 years to resolve completely.

Despite the occupation, British and American settlers continued to drink together



THE FLAGSTAFF WAR

BRITAIN VS MAORI, 1845-46

Many of the wars on this list were started for petty reasons, but none more so than Hōne Heke's rebellion. After the British planted their flag on his New Zealand turf in 1844, he rode in and chopped it down. They replanted it, and he did it again. Four times. On the last occasion, the passive-aggressive behaviour turned into real aggression, and the Maori chief killed the flag's defenders. Sparking a number of key battles, the war finished as it had begun – a stalemate.



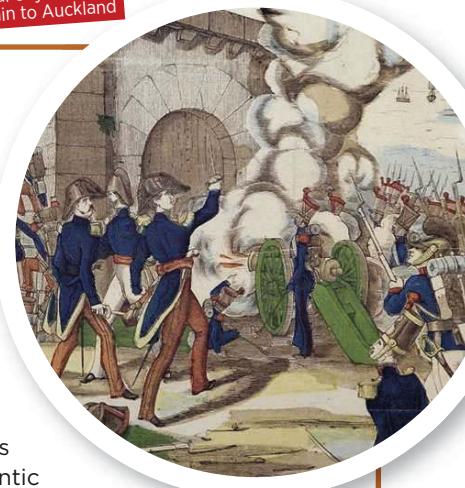
Hōne Heke cuts down the flagstaff, situated in the town of Kororākeo

Hōne Heke originally welcomed British settlers, but became disillusioned when they moved the capital city from his domain to Auckland

PASTRY WAR

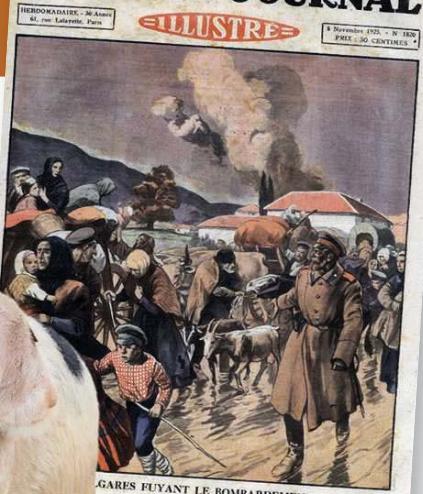
FRANCE VS MEXICO, 1838-39

Though it sounds like a *Bake Off* spin-off, this conflict was taken very seriously. When a French chef living in Mexico City tried to claim a greedy sum of compensation after Mexicans looted his bakery, the French government gladly took up the case in 1838. Sending ships to blockade all the country's Atlantic ports, many clashes ensued, until the British arranged for a peace three months later.



The French occupy the crucial port city of Veracruz

LE PETIT JOURNAL



Bulgarian peasants flee the Greeks, who attack the border town of Petrich

WAR OF THE STRAY DOG

GREECE VS BULGARIA, 1925

When a Greek guard at the border with Bulgaria (one of the country's rivals) accidentally managed to lose his dog over the other side, he ran after it, but was shot and killed by the Bulgarians. They apologised, but Greece invaded a border town anyway, and the League of Nations was eventually forced to intervene.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

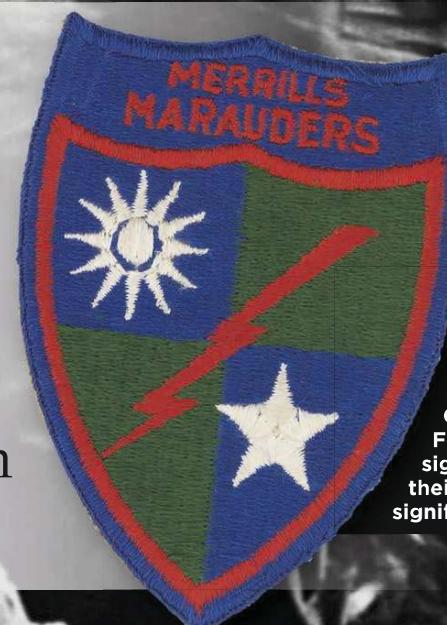
Did we miss out any other bizarrely titled conflicts from our list?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

Pat Kinsella meets an extraordinary unit of military misfits sent on an against-all-odds World War II mission deep behind enemy lines

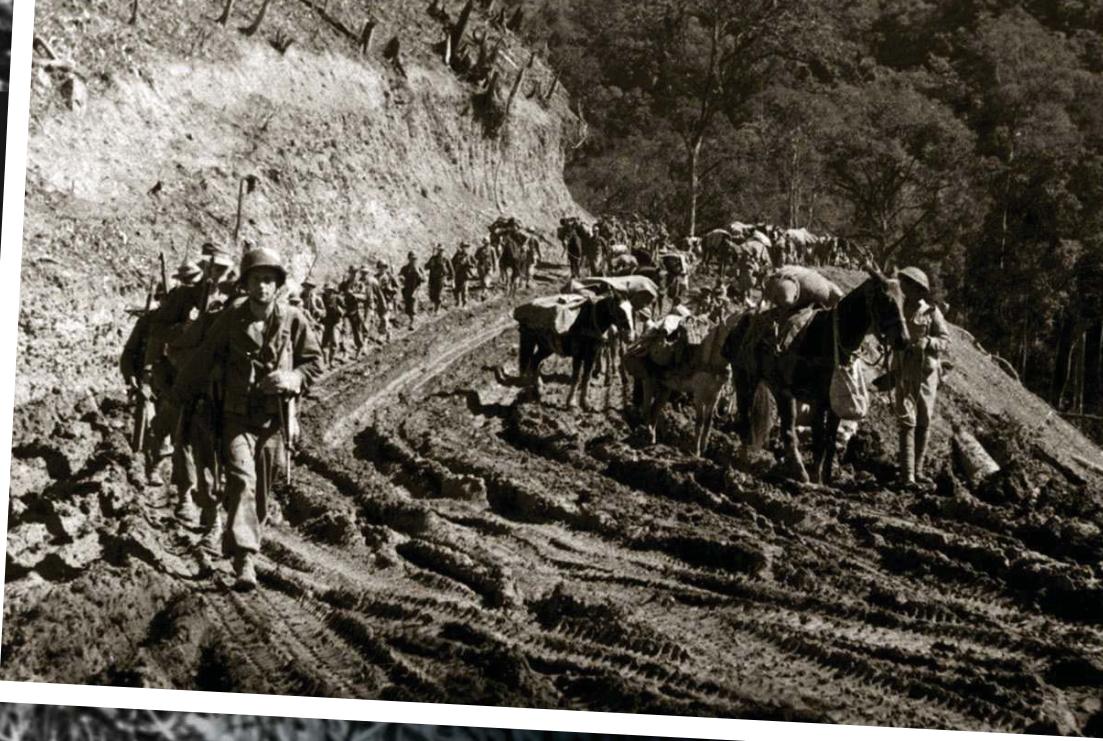


WORN WITH PRIDE

The sun on the unit's insignia commemorates its companion, the Chinese Expeditionary Force; the lightning bolt signifies the swiftness of their strikes; and the star signifies the Star of Burma.

FAR FROM HOME

MAIN: Merrill's Marauders patrol a Burmese jungle. They were the first US ground troops on the Asian mainland RIGHT: Troops on the Ledo Road to China, built under the direction of General Stilwell



“The most beat upon, and yet the most unrewarded regiment-sized unit in World War II”

Colonel Charles Hunter on the 5307th Unit



In the latter stages of World War II, amid intense fighting in South East Asia, a special squadron of rapidly assembled warriors was assigned a highly unusual, extremely dangerous mission. Trained and quickly blooded in jungle-based guerrilla warfare, the provisional 5307th Unit operated under the codename Galahad. But they became better known as Merrill's Marauders, after their first officer.

The composite, highly irregular unit was comprised entirely of volunteers from other regiments, including men released from military stockades – *Dirty Dozen* style. Numbering nearly 3,000, they were arguably the biggest bunch of military misfits ever assembled, but in 1944, after three months of intensive training, the Marauders spent five months hacking through miles of dense and dangerous jungle to fight five major engagements and 32 separate skirmishes against well-armed, numerically superior and hyper-committed Imperial Japanese combat forces.

It's been suggested that the top brass regarded Unit Galahad as a gaggle of inglorious expendables, but the search for volunteers to take part in a near-suicide mission was never sugarcoated. One surviving soldier recalls being openly told the unit was expected to suffer an 85-90 per cent casualty rate.

Always outnumbered, perpetually poorly supplied, constantly ill-informed and rarely well-supported, their weapons were stealth, speed, surprise and accuracy. Amid all the adversity they faced, an extraordinary *esprit de corps* evolved between the ostensibly disparate men. But their losses were huge.

MISSION IMPROBABLE

Japan's 1942 conquest of Burma instantly caused the Allies enormous problems. The Burma Road – a vital umbilicus between India and China – slammed shut, raising the grim possibility that China could be forced out of the war.

At a powwow in Quebec, President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Supreme Allied Commander Mountbatten discussed the dilemma. Influenced by the presence and ideas of eccentric British military strategist Major-General Orde Wingate – who headed an unorthodox deep-penetration special forces group called the Chindits, attacking infrastructure behind enemy lines instead of entering headlong into battle – the leaders decided that the US needed a similar commando group to disrupt Japanese supply routes and communications in Burma.

A request for volunteers for an extremely hazardous mission recruited 2,997 men, whose only common denominator was a willingness to fight filthy against horrendous odds in dreadful conditions to get a nasty job done. Every US state was represented, along with a spectrum of soldiers from different social and ethnic backgrounds, from East-Coast Harvard graduates to streetwise convicts, Sioux Indians,

THE MAIN PLAYERS



FRANK MERRILL

One of the USA's youngest generals since the Civil War, Merrill was inexperienced in combat and in-field man management until given command of the Marauders by Stilwell. He survived two heart attacks during the campaign and missed much of the key action.



JOSEPH STILWELL

Not-so-affectionately known as Vinegar Joe, Stilwell was Chief-of-Staff to China's president General Chiang Kai-shek and commanding general of all US forces in China, Burma and India during World War II. His decision to send hospitalised Marauders back into action at Myitkyina was deeply unpopular.

CHARLES N HUNTER

Hunter was first-choice commanding officer of the 5307th Unit Galahad, until being demoted to Chief-of-Staff by Stilwell. He resumed leadership during the Marauders' most important actions, when Merrill was forced to retire with heart problems.

ORDE WINGATE

Senior British army officer and unorthodox military theorist, who pioneered deep-penetration guerrilla operations, initially with the Gideon Force in Ethiopia, then with the Chindits in Burma. He supplied inspiration and initial training for the Marauders.



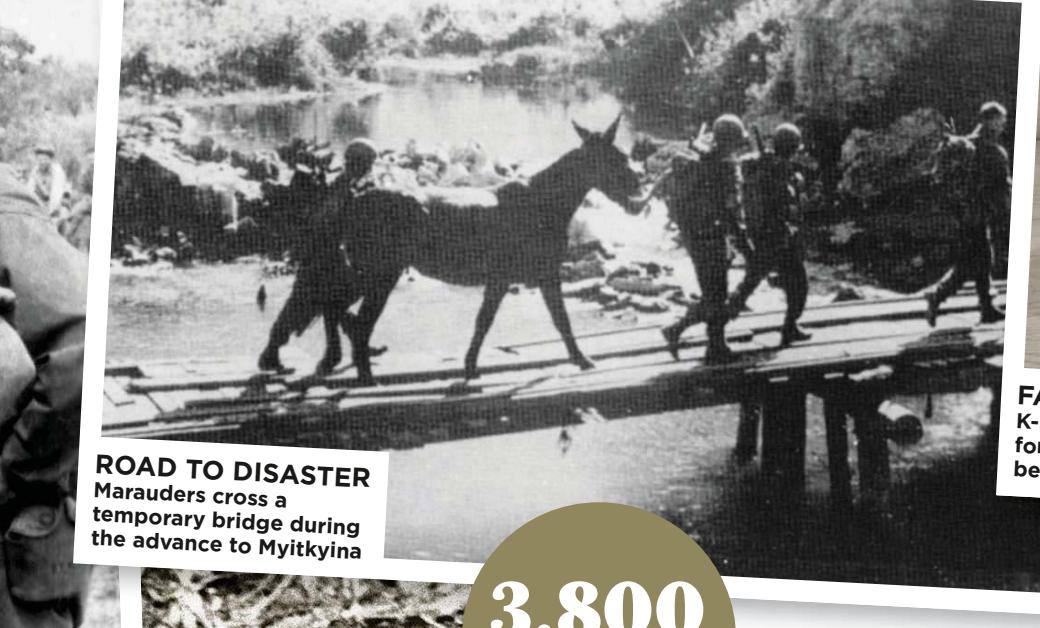
DYNAMIC DUO

Colonel Charles Hunter (centre) and General Joseph Stilwell (left) locked horns throughout the mission



SITTING ON A POWDER KEG

Soldiers await orders to fire



ROAD TO DISASTER
Marauders cross a temporary bridge during the advance to Myitkyina



3,800

Number of Japanese killed in combat at Myitkyina



MORAL SUPPORT

Burmese Kachins, whose homes had been burned by the Japanese, insisted on marching with the unit



FAST SUPPER

K-rations were intended to be for emergencies only, but they became part of the daily diet

African-Americans and – crucially – 14 Nisei (second-generation Japanese immigrants), who spoke the language of the enemy fluently. Labelled Unit 5307 and placed under the experienced command of Colonel Charles Newton Hunter, they assembled in Bombay in October 1943 and began training with Wingate, rehearsing jungle manoeuvres against British forces freshly returned from Burma and practising marksmanship with handheld weapons, from pistols to Tommy guns.

However, when American General Joseph Stilwell – commanding general of all US forces in China, Burma and India – discovered that the unit was operating under Wingate, he was furious, and personally persuaded Mountbatten to relinquish the reigns to him.

On 1 January 1944, Stilwell took command and instantly demoted Hunter to Chief-of-Staff, replacing him with one of his own protégés, West Point graduate Colonel Frank Merrill, who'd been a career desk soldier and had zero combat record or in-field experience of commanding men. Despite the disquiet this caused, the unit's training continued, and when a writer for *Life* magazine saw the men in mock action, he gave them the sticky nickname 'Merrill's Marauders'.

In January 1944, the Marauders began a month-long journey to Ledo, followed by a tough 100-mile march across the Patkai region of the sub-Himalayas, heading south and east along the route of the Ledo Road. On 24 February, they entered the Burmese jungle and began pushing behind Japanese lines.

During deep-penetration operations, everything has to be carried, and each of Galahad's three battalions had horses and mules to assist with the hauling of supplies. But the jungle was unforgiving to men and equines alike, and mortal danger lurked everywhere.

Reconnaissance and intelligence platoons led the way, scouting trails and engaging the enemy when encountered. The first

fatal firefight happened the day after the unit set foot on Burmese soil, and three days later, Merrill finally told his men why they were here. Their first objective was to enforce a roadblock on the main road to North Burma, near the village of Walawbum, to stop supplies getting through to frontline Japanese troops fighting the Chinese. After a brief engagement, during which the Marauders used their chief weapon of surprise to good effect on the numerically stronger Japanese forces, the block was successfully established. However, they soon struck back, sending in the big guns from the dreaded Japanese 18th Division. Already outnumbered two to one, the Americans were now facing big-ordinance artillery bombardment.

However, the Japanese – who now knew they were under attack, but thought they were fighting Chinese troops with basic single-shot rifles, instead of Americans with automatic weaponry – underestimated their enemy and suffered huge losses. One of the Japanese-speaking Marauders tapped into a telecommunication line and learned the location of a large ammunitions dump, which was then knocked out from the air.

Although down to their very last bullets by the end of the encounter, Unit 5307 defied the odds to rout the Japanese, who suffered 800 deaths compared to just eight American fatalities. Even more importantly, the victory shattered the myth of the undefeatable 18th, seriously injuring Japanese morale.

SIEGE OF MAGGOT HILL

Just three days later, after a supply drop, Stilwell split the unit up and sent the Marauders back into action. First battalion went south from Walawbum, towards Shaduzup, on a 50-mile march through the southeastern end of the Hukawng Valley, cutting through dense jungle full of enemy soldiers and becoming involved in up to 20 skirmishes. Reaching Shaduzup, they discovered a Japanese camp on the far side of the river, and slaughtered them in a surprise attack. Meanwhile, Second and Third battalions had gone east and south, fighting their way through the villages of Hsamshingyang and Nhpum Ga to Inkangahtawng, where they established a road block.

However, intelligence revealed that a massive Japanese force was closing in, threatening to cut the Americans off completely, and a retreat

GEOGRAPHY

After intensive training in India, the Marauders' mission began with a long, unsupported march into Burma (Myanmar). Often they were forced to fight and hack their way through dense jungle with machetes. Tropical diseases, dangers and irritations – including snakebites, dysentery, typhus and leeches – plagued the Marauders throughout their five-month deployment in Burma.

1 31 OCTOBER 1943 – JANUARY 1944 Central India

After arriving in Bombay (modern Mumbai), volunteers of Unit Galahad undergo three months of intensive tropical jungle combat training, first in Deolali then in Deogarh, Madhya Pradesh.

2 JANUARY – FEBRUARY Central-northeast India

The majority of the Marauders (minus a contingent of 247 men, who remain in India as support personnel) spend one month travelling 1,000 miles by rail and boat from the training area to Ledo in Assam, India, the start point of a new supply road then still under construction. They arrive on 7 February.

3 9-21 FEBRUARY Northeast India – Burma (Myanmar)

From Ledo they continue on foot for another 100 miles, travelling roughly ten miles a day through the peaks and passes of the Patkai Bum region, to arrive in Ningbyen, Burma between 19-21 February. By 24 February, they are well behind enemy lines.

4 4-9 MARCH Walawbum, Burma

The Marauders' first major engagement sees them establish a roadblock on the main road to North Burma. They then defend their position and defeat Japan's much-feared 18th Division, despite being outnumbered two to one.

5 12 MARCH Kachin, Burma

Once casualties have been airlifted out and the Unit resupplied by brave pilots of little Piper Cub planes, the Unit's three divisions split up. The First Battalion heads south towards Shaduzup, where they engage the Japanese in a battle, while the Second and Third Battalions march east and south, through Hsamshingyang and Nhpum Ga, to set up a road block in Inkangahtawng.

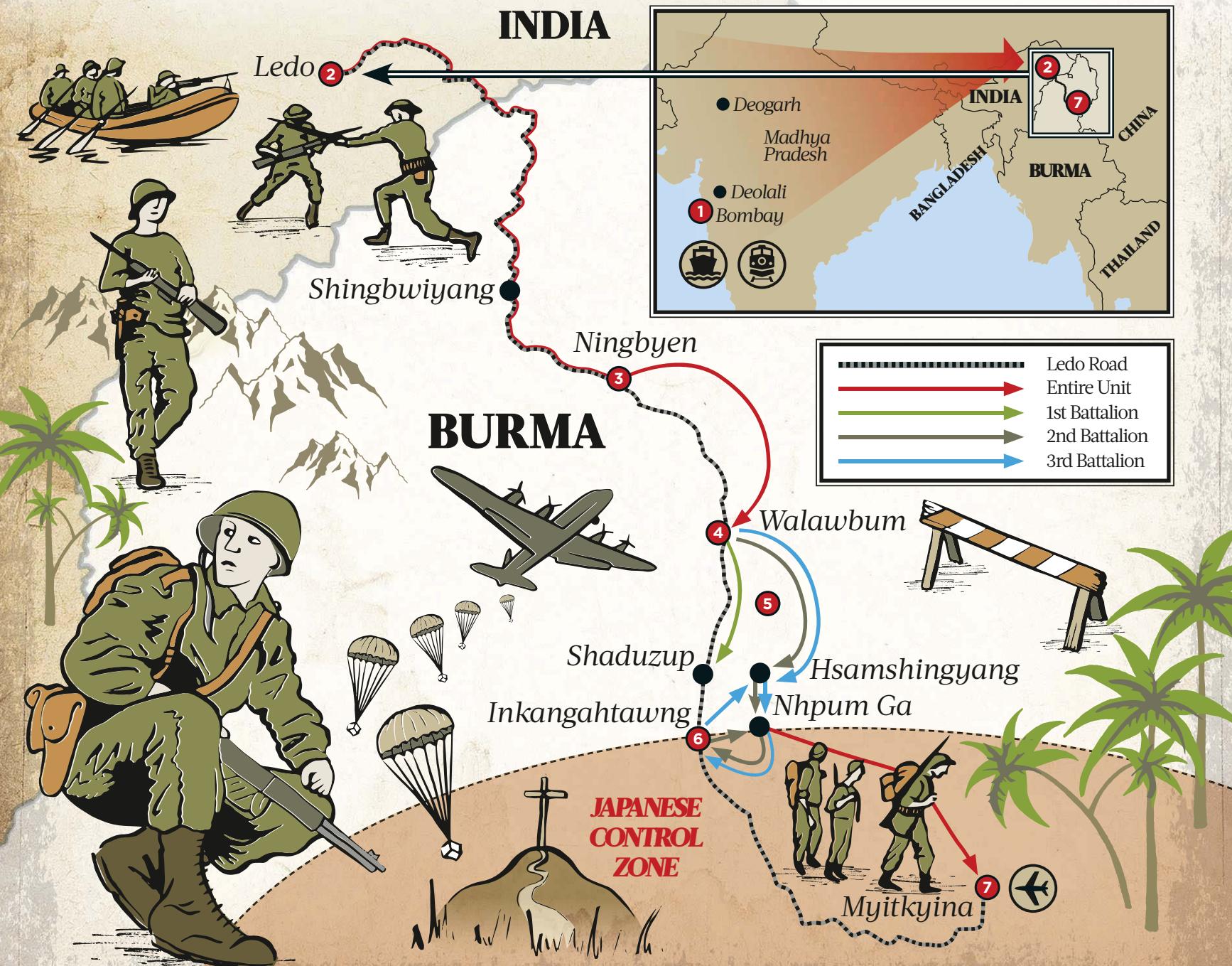
6 28 MARCH-9 APRIL Maggot Hill, Nhpum Ga

Forced into a retreat, the Third Battalion hikes to Hsamshingyang, where they engage the enemy, while the Second Battalion is surrounded and besieged on a body-strewn bump in Nhpum Ga, nicknamed Maggot Hill. Other divisions help rout the Japanese.



7 17 MAY-AUGUST Myitkyina

Having marched for ten days through monstrous monsoon conditions, along a 65-mile mountain trail across the Kumon Range, suffering greatly from disease and malnutrition, the much-depleted Marauders fight their final series of battles. The airfield at Myitkyina is quickly taken, but it's not until 3 August that the city is secured, with the help of Chinese and British forces.





THE BITTER END
FAR LEFT: Troops fire a 75mm pack howitzer at Myitkyina CENTRE: Marauders take aim at a Japanese plane that has come up to attack Myitkyina airfield NEAR LEFT: Stilwell decorates the mission's survivors

to Nhpum Ga was ordered. To keep the escape route open, a platoon under Lieutenant Logan Weston doggedly defended the road from the south, holding what transpired to be an entire regiment at bay for three days and four nights. Third Battalion then headed to Hsamshingyang, while Second Battalion continued to Nhpum Ga, where 800 Marauders prepared to prevent the Japanese forces advancing any further north.

Before this happened, Colonel Merrill suffered a heart attack and when he was evacuated, Colonel Hunter resumed leadership of the unit in the field. He faced enormous problems, with growing casualties caused more by disease and poor diet than anything the enemy were inflicting upon them. That, though, was about to change.

On 31 March, Japanese forces surrounded the beleaguered battalion, trapping them in Nhpum Ga. They grimly nicknamed the place Maggot Hill, because it was covered in the corpses of Japanese soldiers and horses, putrefying and crawling with the larvae of bluebottle flies. The Japanese guarded the only water source, and the Marauders had little to eat or drink for a week. An attempt to retake the waterhole ended in a tragic incident when several soldiers were killed by friendly fire.

On the eighth day of the siege, while eavesdropping near an enemy camp, Nisei soldier Roy Matsumoto learned that a Banzai attack was planned for the following morning. The Marauders were ready, and the Japanese suffered huge losses as they charged at the screaming machine guns. From their position at Hsamshingyang, Third Battalion attempted to relieve the pressure on their comrades by launching attacks on the Japanese. On 2 April, two 75mm pack howitzers were airdropped in

to the Marauders, giving them artillery power to punch even harder, and four days later First Battalion arrived. Despite having endured a four-day march from Shaduzup, with almost no food, they too joined the fray.

By 9 April, the siege was broken and the Japanese routed again. The toll had been heavy, however, and the Marauders' force was half of its original strength, with just 1,400 men still standing, many of them ravaged by disease and malnutrition. Worse still, they were ordered back into battle almost immediately.

MYITKYINA MADNESS

Having recovered from his heart problem, Merrill resumed command and on 17 April, he and Stilwell planned an assault on the all-weather airstrip at Myitkyina, from where Japanese fighter planes were attacking Allied C-47 Skytrains flying supplies from India, across 'The Hump' (the Himalayas) to China.

The depleted Marauder ranks were reinforced with the addition of Chinese troops and the crucial support of the Burmese Kachins, a local tribe with huge knowledge of the terrain and a deep-seated hatred of the Japanese invaders.

Motivating his men with second-hand promises from Stilwell about immediate evacuation upon the completion of their mission, Merrill marched the Marauders through a monsoon for ten days, along a 65-mile mountain trail across the Kumon Range. In the mud, horses slipped and fell to their deaths, taking valuable supplies with them, and men were beasted by leeches. Dozens died from typhus, and their ability to fight disease and

2

Number of Marauders who finished the mission alive and who had never been hospitalised

fatigue was retarded by their diet, consisting of the infamously unpopular 'K-ration'.

These stingy packets of tasteless, low-calorie food were originally intended for emergency use only – for pilots shot down behind enemy lines – not to sustain fighting, marching men, and many of the Marauders had serious malnutrition before reaching Myitkyina. Merrill then suffered a second heart attack and was once again evacuated, with Hunter stepping up to take command.

Despite all this, well-planned attacks on Japanese soldiers in surrounding villages dragged the attention of the enemy away from Myitkyina, and on 17 May, Hunter's battalion took the airport in a surprise offensive.

But the promised relief didn't arrive, and the evacuations didn't begin, and soon a few hundred residual Japanese troops in Myitkyina swelled to around 4,000. Counter attacks were waged against the Marauders, whose numbers were now down to around 600, and an attempt to employ Chinese battalions to take the pressure off the Americans at the airfield ended in another friendly fire fiasco.

British Chindits and Chinese troops joined the fighting, but Stilwell, swirling in a political fog, refused to evacuate the 5307. Against Hunter's wishes, he even sent injured Marauders back into action from the hospitals where they had been recovering – a decision that seriously tarnished his reputation. More Americans were sent in, but they were engineers, not combat troops, and their effectiveness was minimal. The situation worsened still further when an Allied aerial attack accidentally dropped bombs on the American-held area, killing and wounding 119 men. Still the Marauders held out, and even staged offensive attacks on the Japanese positions, until 2,900 fresh troops finally arrived from India.

On 3 August 1944, Myitkyina fell. A week later the 5307th Unit was disbanded, with just 130 men still standing from the original 2,750 who had entered Burma five months earlier. ◎

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

By taking Myitkyina, the Marauders helped open the Ledo Road and vastly reduced the capability of the Japanese to attack Allied planes flying over the Himalayas with vital supplies for Chinese troops. Just days after the conclusion of the Battle of Myitkyina on 3 August 1944, the surviving members of the 5307th Composite Unit were absorbed into the 475th Infantry. A decade later, the 475th Infantry morphed into the

75th Infantry, which in turn became 75th Ranger Regiment, now the only ranger regiment in the US Army, whose soldiers still sport the colours and shoulder pads worn by Merrill's Marauders. In 1966, the 5307th was recognised with the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in action, and every single Marauder was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic or meritorious service.

GET HOOKED

WATCH

Merrill's Marauders – Based on a book written by Charlton Ogburn Jr, a communications officer who served with the 5307th, this 1962 film stars Jeff Chandler as Merrill.



TALE AS OLD AS TIME?

Anthropologists believe that *Beauty and the Beast* may be 4,000 years old



THE BEAUTY, THE BEAST AND THE FORGOTTEN STORYTELLERS

Over a century before the Brothers Grimm began publishing their fairy tales, a group of disaffected women found their voice in literature, producing some of the most-loved stories of all time

Words: Alicea Francis

Once upon a time, in a kingdom not too far away, a woman sat down at her desk to write. From her pen flowed the tale of a young girl named Belle, the daughter of a merchant who finds himself lost in the woods. He stumbles upon a palace and is welcomed by a hidden figure, who offers him a lavish feast and a bed for the night. The next day, the merchant plucks a rose from the garden to give to Belle, but is suddenly confronted by a terrifying beast. For taking his most prized possession, the beast tells him, he must give his life. After begging for mercy, the beast allows the merchant to leave – but only if his beloved daughter returns in his place.

The story was *La Belle et le Béte* – or *Beauty and the Beast*, as we know it in the English-speaking world – published in 1740 by French novelist Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve. In the years that followed, the shoots of the fairy tale were twisted and twined around the pens of many other storytellers;

first by Jean-Marie Leprince de Beaumont, who published a much shorter version for children the following decade. The first movie adaptation, directed by Jean Cocteau in 1946, introduced talking mirrors and enchanted candelabras, as well as the character of Avenant, Beauty's arrogant suitor. It was this version that would eventually form the bare branches of its most famous retelling – the 1991 Disney animation.

But who sowed the story's seed? Like all fairy tales, its roots reach far deeper than the paper on which it was first written. Though it's impossible to trace their origins to a particular time and place, we do know that humans were telling stories as soon as they were able to speak – or perhaps, even before, through sign language. These ancient tales were used to communicate knowledge, warn about dangers or explain the inexplicable. They often formed the basis of mythologies, which were transcribed by the literate elite and became part of a structured belief system. >



THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Among the illiterate, non-religious (but often moral) stories were shared. Magical folk tales were passed down verbally from generation to generation, largely by women, peasants and slaves. They told stories of giants and monsters, princes and wicked step-mothers, wizards and talking animals. These could be differentiated from the legends that became popular in the medieval period, which were believed to be grounded in reality; even ones containing mythical beasts, like *St George and the Dragon* (which originated in 11th-century Georgia) were thought to be true.

Unlike legends, fairy tales were not transcribed for centuries, so it's very hard to know just how old they are. In 2016, anthropologists revealed that *Beauty and the Beast* might be 4,000 years old, following analyses between folktales and languages from Europe and Asia. But the oldest written evidence we have is an Ancient Roman myth known as *The Golden Ass*, believed to have been adapted from an earlier Greek text, which tells the tale of Cupid and Psyche. Psyche is a beautiful young maiden, prophesised to be wed to a dragon-like creature. Her family leave her on top of a mountain to face her destiny, but instead she is whisked

AKG IMAGES XI, GETTY X4, SHUTTERSTOCK/REX XI, TOPFOTO XI

away by the West Wind to a magnificent palace. A disembodied voice tells her to make herself comfortable, and she is entertained by a feast that serves itself. That night, she is guided to her bedroom, where an invisible figure comes to her. Assuming he is the monster she is destined to marry, she learns to look forward to his visits.

In England too, Shakespeare wrote *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, whose central character has his head transformed into that of a donkey – and a fairy queen falls in love with him. But it was in Paris where the story captured the imagination of a little-known writer, who moulded it into the fairy tale we know today.

WIVES' TALES

In Shakespeare's time, French society still considered fairy tales to be the remit of the lower classes. That all changed in the mid-17th century, when aristocratic ladies began gathering in their homes to discuss social matters, politics and the arts. The topics of conversation were chosen in advance, and the gatherings were often held in the bedroom, with the hostess reclining on her bed and her friends drawn up on chairs around.

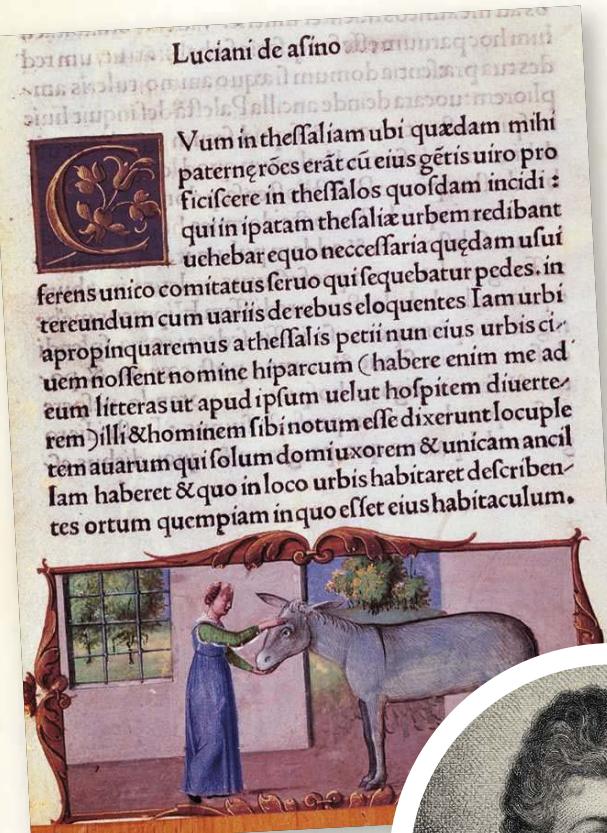
This was a time when women were barred from universities, arranged marriages were the norm, and wives were confined to domestic duties. At court, contact between men and women was restricted, and many topics of conversation were considered 'improper' for 'delicate' ladies. The 'salons', as the gatherings became known, provided a chance for them to discuss complex matters at their leisure, and even men began to take part.

Encouraged by their success, women started to write their own works of fiction, poetry and plays, and share them during the events. At some point, a trend for discussing the plots of old folk tales swept through the salons, and attendees were encouraged to retell an old tale or rework an old theme. Not surprisingly, many

"Many topics were considered 'improper' for 'delicate' ladies"

But the unknown man is not a beast – he is the winged god Cupid, who has been scratched by his own arrow.

With the Renaissance, a renewed interest in Classical literature saw writers turn to ancient mythology for inspiration, and it was in 16th-century Italy that the first literary fairy tales appeared. Writers like Giovanni Francesco Straparola and Giambattista Basile penned the earliest-known written versions of *Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella* and *Snow White*, as well as a story called *The Pig King*, in which a girl falls in love with a pig (who turns out to be a prince). The similarities with *The Golden Ass* are unmistakable.



BOOKS AND BEASTS

ABOVE: A 15th-century edition of *The Golden Ass*

RIGHT: Madame d'Aulnoy and a poster for her 'tales of fairies'





DREAMERS

TOP: A scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* ABOVE: Charles Perrault surrounded by characters from his stories

were centred on young aristocratic women who were under the control of their fathers and husbands, forced into unwanted marriages and longing for true love.

One of these salonnieres was Madame D'Aulnoy, whose father had forced her to marry at 15 to a man 30 years her senior. Her salon was frequented by aristocrats and princes, and between 1690 and 1703, she published 12 books, the most popular being *Les Contes des Fees* – or 'tales of fairies'. This was the first time that the term had been used for the genre, but they were far from the fairy tales that we know today. These stories were strictly for adults.

Another Parisian who moved in the same circles, Charles Perrault, also began writing fairy tales around this time. One was *Sleeping Beauty*, based on the Italian fairy tale *Sun, Moon and Talia*, which in turn was based on one or more folk tales. He provided a much watered-down version of the tale, which before had featured adultery, rape and cannibalism. He subtitled his collection 'Tales of Mother Goose'. The goose in question has never been identified, but is believed to refer to the rural storytelling traditions of the time.

In 1740, influenced by the salon writers, Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve published *Beauty and the Beast*. Like D'Aulnoy, Villeneuve had suffered at the hands of men.

TALES OF THE FATHERLAND? THE BROTHERS GRIMM

Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm grew up in late-18th-century Germany – a time when Romanticism was the movement of the moment, with writers and artists alike reacting against the new age of science to glorify the traditions of the past.

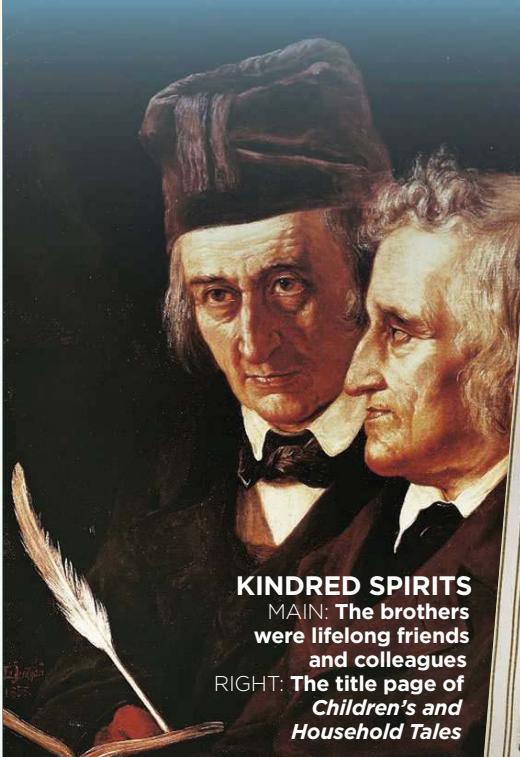
Having overcome destitution to win themselves a place at the University of Marburg, the brothers became involved in a circle of Romantics, who argued that German literature should revert to its simpler forms. Folk stories were considered the purest of these – having been passed down orally from generation to generation by the common folk – and so the Brothers Grimm began to transcribe them, reintroducing regional dialects and Low German, believing that a national identity could be found within them. They were compiled into a volume of 86 stories, entitled *Children's and Household Tales*. So intrinsically German was their book thought that during the Third Reich, the Nazi party decreed that every household should own a copy.

It is ironic, then, that the tales that supposedly embody 'Germanness' were heavily based on the French salon stories. The storytellers who came to the Grimms' home were more often than not middle class or members of the aristocracy. Several of them were of Huguenot ancestry, telling tales of

French origin that had sprouted from the Paris salons. The first edition of *Household Tales* included Rapunzel, first written by salonnier Charlotte-Rose de Caumont de la Force in 1698; *Bearskin* by Henriette-Julie de Murat; and *Cinderella*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Puss in Boots* and *Sleeping Beauty*, by Charles Perrault. German words like 'fee' (fairy) and 'prinz' (prince) – both of French origin – were exchanged for more Teutonic-sounding ones, like 'zauberin' (enchantress) and 'königssohn' (king's son).

Initially, the book received a lukewarm reception. Many of the stories were considered inappropriate for children, containing scenes of a violent or sexual nature. In *Rapunzel*, for example, it was explicit that the prince was having sexual relations with the girl in the tower. In *Snow White*, the Queen was the heroine's mother, not her step-mother, and ordered the huntsman to bring back her daughter's lungs so that she could eat them. In the end, the Queen was forced to dance to her death while wearing a pair of red-hot iron slippers.

Over the years, the stories were edited to make them more suitable not only for children but for a bourgeois audience, featuring biblical references, religious motifs and morals to right even the naughtiest child.



RIGHT: The title page of *Children's and Household Tales*



ESCAPING REALITY

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

Like the Brothers Grimm, Hans Christian Andersen had a rough start in life; he attended a school for poor children in Odense, Denmark, and left education prematurely to earn a living as an apprentice tailor. However, it wasn't long before someone noticed his beautiful singing voice, and recommended that he seek employment as an actor in Copenhagen. He was offered a position at the Royal Danish Theatre in 1819, but the teenager's soprano voice soon wavered. The theatre director, seeing his potential, persuaded King Frederick VI to pay for his continued education, and it was while he was at grammar school that he published his first poems. But again bad luck befell him, as his schoolmasters discouraged him from his writing and would often beat him. He later described this time as the darkest of his life.

Upon leaving school, Andersen continued to write. His first volume of fairy tales was published in 1835, which included *The Princess and the Pea*, *Thumbelina* and *The Little Mermaid*, but sales were poor. Meanwhile, his personal life experienced equally frustrating

challenges, when the woman he was in love with declined his marriage proposal. She wrote in response: "Farewell... God bless and protect my brother is the sincere wish of his affectionate sister, Jenny". It wasn't until the late-1840s that Andersen finally received the recognition he deserved, when his fairy tales were published in four foreign languages, and reviewed in a London journal as "a book full of life and fancy".

In 1847, Andersen met his idol, Charles Dickens, for the first time, at a party in London. Seeming to have much in common, the pair began a correspondence, and in the summer of 1857 Andersen decided to pay Dickens another visit. Despite promising not to be an inconvenience, the Dutchman long outstayed his welcome, and following his five-week stay, Dickens wrote on the guest room mirror: "Hans Andersen slept in this room for five weeks, which seemed to the family AGES!".

Andersen died in 1875, after falling out of bed and sustaining serious injuries. He never did find out why Dickens stopped answering his letters.

HANS MAID

RIGHT: *The Little Mermaid* is cursed by the sea witch
BELOW: Andersen's fairy tales were not an initial success

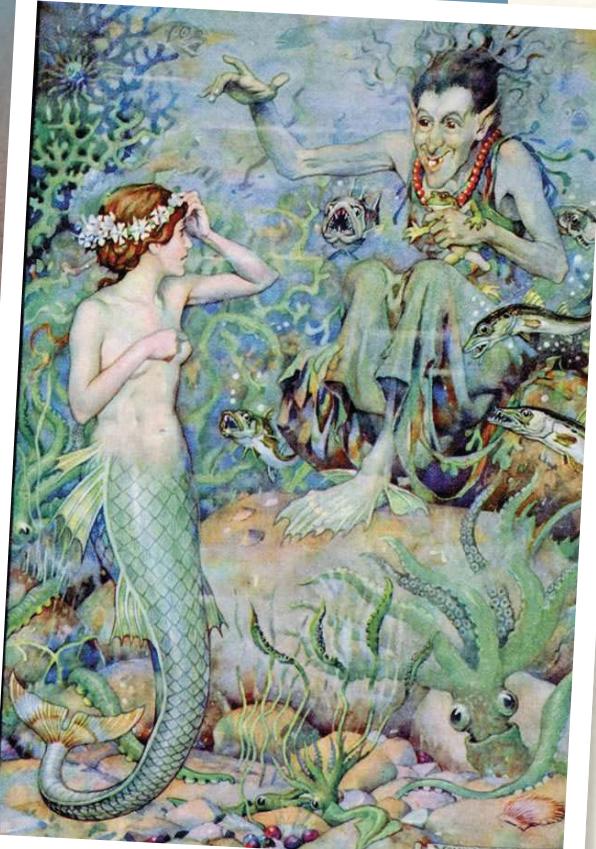


After being married into the aristocracy, within six months her husband had squandered much of their inheritance. By the age of 26, Villeneuve was a penniless widow, and took up employment to support herself. Eventually, she met a playwright in Paris, and the pair began cohabiting. She assisted him in his duties as royal literary censor, and while doing so also began to write her own works.

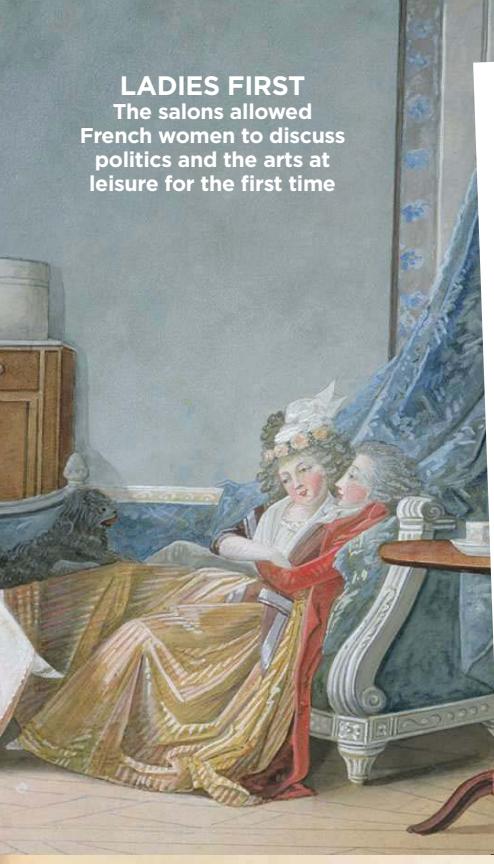
Beauty and the Beast was novel-length, and included numerous back-stories. The beast was the son of a king who had died when

he was young. His mother put him in the care of an evil fairy, who had tried to seduce him when he became an adult. The prince refused, and so she transformed him into a beast. Villeneuve also revealed that Belle was not really the daughter of a merchant, but in fact the daughter of a king and a good fairy. After the evil fairy tried to murder her, she was given to the merchant and raised as his daughter in order to protect her identity. Like the other salon tales, the story was written for adults and reflected Villeneuve's own experiences of marriage – forced to wed a stranger who had behaved like a beast.

In 1756, following Villeneuve's death, a French author named Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont published a much-abridged version. This was one of the first times that fairy tales had been recast for children. Clear moral lessons were added, the back-stories were lost, and she gave no credit to the original author. It was this version that inspired later retellings of *Beauty and the Beast*. By the 19th century, when children's publishing became a thriving industry,



LADIES FIRST
The salons allowed French women to discuss politics and the arts at leisure for the first time



THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



the French salon tales were seen as a cheap source of story material, and were published under the name of that anonymous old peasant known as Mother Goose.

INFERIOR IMITATORS

So why is it that we now only remember Perrault from the salon era, while the female

storytellers have been long forgotten? From the very beginning, the salonnieres were shunned by male members of society, with one influential priest declaring "Most women only enjoy reading because they enjoy laziness and the trivial... they amuse themselves with a book in the same way they play with a fly or a ribbon. So does it astonish you that tales and

little stories are popular?" Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a writer and philosopher, warned of the destructive influence of fantasy, and said, "Every woman in Paris gathers in her apartment a harem of men more womanish than she." The next generation of fairy tale enthusiasts painted them in a similar light. In the introduction to their *Children's and Household Tales*, the Brothers Grimm praised the simple, "peasant"-style prose of Perrault, and dismissed the other salon writers as "inferior imitators".

But it wasn't just the writers who were forgotten. When Disney released its animated version of *Beauty and the Beast*, the story was altered almost beyond recognition. Belle's request for a rose was removed and she volunteered herself to take her father's place in the palace. The character of Gaston was added, taking the role of the story's villain. The world had been simplified and sugar-coated for its young viewers – an unhappy ending for the salonnieres, who had only ever wanted to expose its wrongs. ☺

© **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Have the Parisian salon writers been unfairly forgotten? Which is the greatest fairy tale of all time?
Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

HOW FAIRY TALES HAVE CHANGED



THE LITTLE MERMAID

MODERN: A mermaid falls in love with a prince and asks a sea witch to exchange her voice for feet. On land, the prince falls in love with her, but the witch tricks him into marrying the wrong woman. The prince eventually realises his mistake, the sea witch is killed, and he and the mermaid live happily ever after.

ORIGINAL: The sea witch exchanges the mermaid's voice for feet, but tells her that every step she takes will feel like walking on knives. The prince marries another woman, and the witch tells the mermaid that she will be spared death if she kills the prince. The mermaid can't bring herself to do it, and her body dissolves into foam.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

MODERN: An evil fairy curses a baby princess. Sixteen years later, the princess pricks her finger and falls into a deep sleep. A prince falls in love with her but is kidnapped by the fairy, who he then kills. He wakes the princess and they live happily ever after.

ORIGINAL: A king discovers the sleeping princess and, unable to wake her, rapes her. Still sleeping, she gives birth to twins, one of whom sucks the splinter out of her finger and wakes her. The King's wife finds out about his secret children, and orders for them to be brought to the palace and fed to the king. The cook instead feeds him lamb, and when the King realises what his wife has tried to do, he has her burnt alive.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

MODERN: A girl is asked to deliver food to her sickly grandmother. A wolf, seeing Little Red Riding Hood walking through the forest, beats her to the house and locks her grandmother in the cupboard. He then gets into bed dressed in the grandmother's clothing. A woodsman, seeing what is happening, kills the wolf and they all live happily ever after.

ORIGINAL: The wolf kills the grandmother and cooks her, leaving the meat for Little Red Riding Hood to eat when she gets to the house. He then asks Riding Hood to remove her clothes and throw them into the fire before she is forced to get into bed with him. The wolf then eats her.

BATTLE CONTEXT

When

11 September 1297

Where

Stirling, Scotland

Who

English (Earl of Surrey, Hugh de Cressingham): 6,500 infantry, 350 cavalry

Scots (William Wallace, Andrew de Moray): 6,000 infantry, 180 cavalry

Why

Scottish resistance to rule of Edward I

Result

Scottish victory

NO ESCAPE

Hemmed in against the river by Wallace's spearmen, Surrey's vanguard was massacred.



Wallace triumphant

ILLUSTRATION: ANDREW HILLHOUSE, GETTY XL REV/SHUTTERSTOCK XI

William Wallace's victory at Stirling Bridge inspired the Scots in their struggle against the overlordship of Edward I. Julian Humphrys looks at how and why it happened

Edward I meant business. The King of Scotland and his nobles had dared to defy him, and now they were going to pay the price. The first Scottish town to feel Edward's wrath was Berwick. On Good Friday 1296, he ordered an all-out assault on the town, which was rapidly overrun, thoroughly sacked, and many of its inhabitants (who had rather unwisely taunted the English by baring their bottoms at them) put to the sword. Four weeks later, his army fell on the Scots at Dunbar and routed them – over 171 earls, knights and squires were taken prisoner.

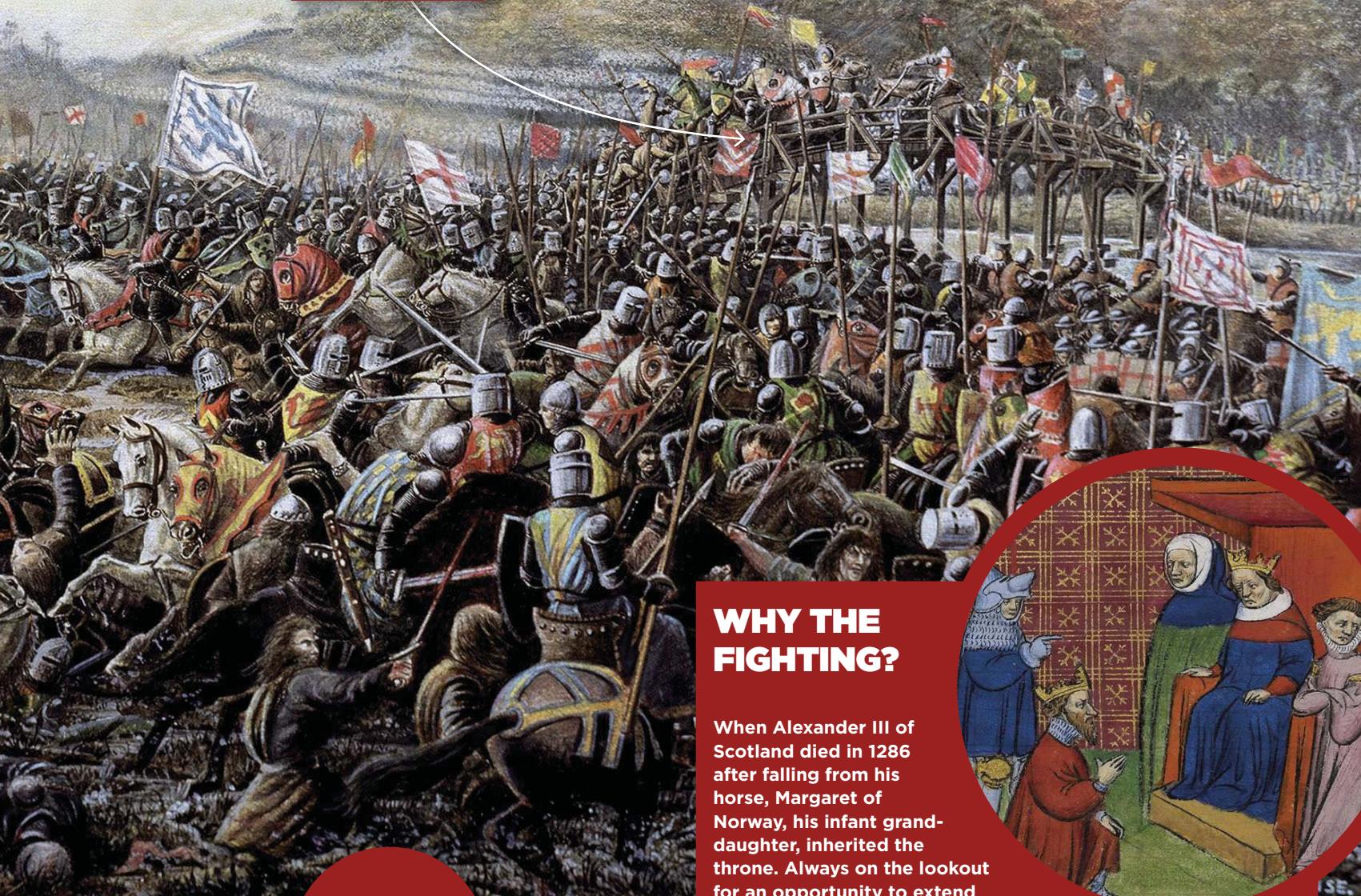
By now, there was no stopping the fearsome English king. One by

SINKING FEELING

William Wallace's army clashes with the English on the marshy banks of the river Forth

BOTTLENECK

Only a small number of English knights managed to fight their way back across Stirling Bridge.



one, Scotland's castles surrendered to him (as he approached Stirling Castle, the garrison made themselves scarce, leaving the porter to hand over the keys). Realising the game was up, King John Balliol formally surrendered to Edward near Brechin on 10 July. As a final humiliation, Edward tore the royal arms from the surcoat of the hapless Scottish king before packing him off to London. Sensing an opportunity, Robert Bruce (the father of the future Scottish monarch) tried his luck, suggesting to Edward that he might make him king instead. He was swiftly sent packing with the words "Have we nothing better

to do than to win kingdoms for you?"

In Edward's eyes, the independent kingdom of Scotland was no more, and he underlined the fact by taking the ancient Scottish coronation stone from Scone and having it sent to Westminster. After extracting oaths of loyalty from nearly 2,000 Scots, Edward returned to England, leaving the government of Scotland in the hands of his trusted lieutenant, John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey. In fact, the elderly Surrey disliked Scotland so much that he retired to his estates in Yorkshire, leaving day-to-day administration in the hands of his treasurer, Hugh

WHY THE FIGHTING?

When Alexander III of Scotland died in 1286 after falling from his horse, Margaret of Norway, his infant granddaughter, inherited the throne. Always on the lookout for an opportunity to extend his influence north of the border, Edward I of England negotiated a marriage between Margaret and his own son Edward. His plans were initially scuppered when Margaret suddenly died, but he was given a second chance when the Scots asked him to adjudicate between a number of 'competitors', all claiming the Scottish throne. Edward agreed to be judge – as long as it was acknowledged that he was overlord of Scotland. He eventually chose John Balliol as king, and wasted little time in showing him who was boss by interfering in Scottish legal affairs whenever he got the chance.

THE CHOSEN ONE
John Balliol, King of Scotland, offers homage to Edward I after being selected to rule

In 1294, Edward issued a summons ordering Balliol and other Scottish lords to join his army against the French. Unwilling to get dragged into a war that was none of their concern, the Scots refused. Pressurised by his nobles, Balliol instead signed a treaty with France and the 'Auld Alliance' was born. Edward was determined to reassert his authority, and in 1296, he raised a large army and invaded Scotland.

de Cressingham, who soon made himself thoroughly hated because of what the Scots saw as his exorbitant tax demands.

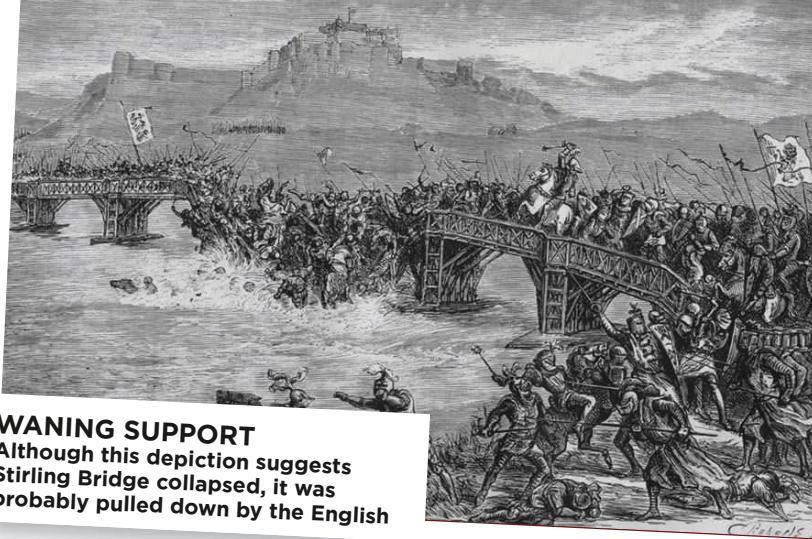
Edward may have cowed the majority of Scotland's nobles, but pockets of resistance still remained, notably in northeast Scotland, where Andrew de Moray led a highly effective campaign against English rule. Then, in May 1297, a little-known Scottish squire, William Wallace, raided Lanark with a small force of men and killed William Heselrig, its English sheriff. News of this daring act of defiance spread far and wide, and soon men were flocking to join Wallace's rapidly growing army.

Wallace was also attracting the interest of the Scottish nobility. While most felt that they had too much to lose to defy Edward openly, they were happy to let the relatively lowly Wallace be the public face of Scottish resistance. After all, they could always distance themselves from him if things went wrong. Those Scottish nobles that did dare to rise up against Edward rapidly backed

down when they were confronted by a large English army under Henry Percy and Robert Clifford. After protracted negotiations (which at least bought time for Moray and Wallace to gather their strength), they surrendered without striking a blow at Irvine in July. Some, like William Douglas, were shipped off to London as prisoners, while others, like Stewart and Lennox, bought their freedom by agreeing to join with the English. Meanwhile, after driving the English out of most of Fife and Perthshire, Wallace joined forces with Moray and the pair laid siege to English-held Dundee.

WOODEN BRIDGE

By now, Edward was away in Flanders, so it fell to Surrey to crush the rebellion. He hurriedly raised an army of English and Welsh soldiers and, accompanied by Cressingham, he marched north to confront the Scots. Hearing the news, Wallace and Moray headed south from Dundee and on 10 September, the two armies faced each other at Stirling, with the English deployed beneath the



WANING SUPPORT

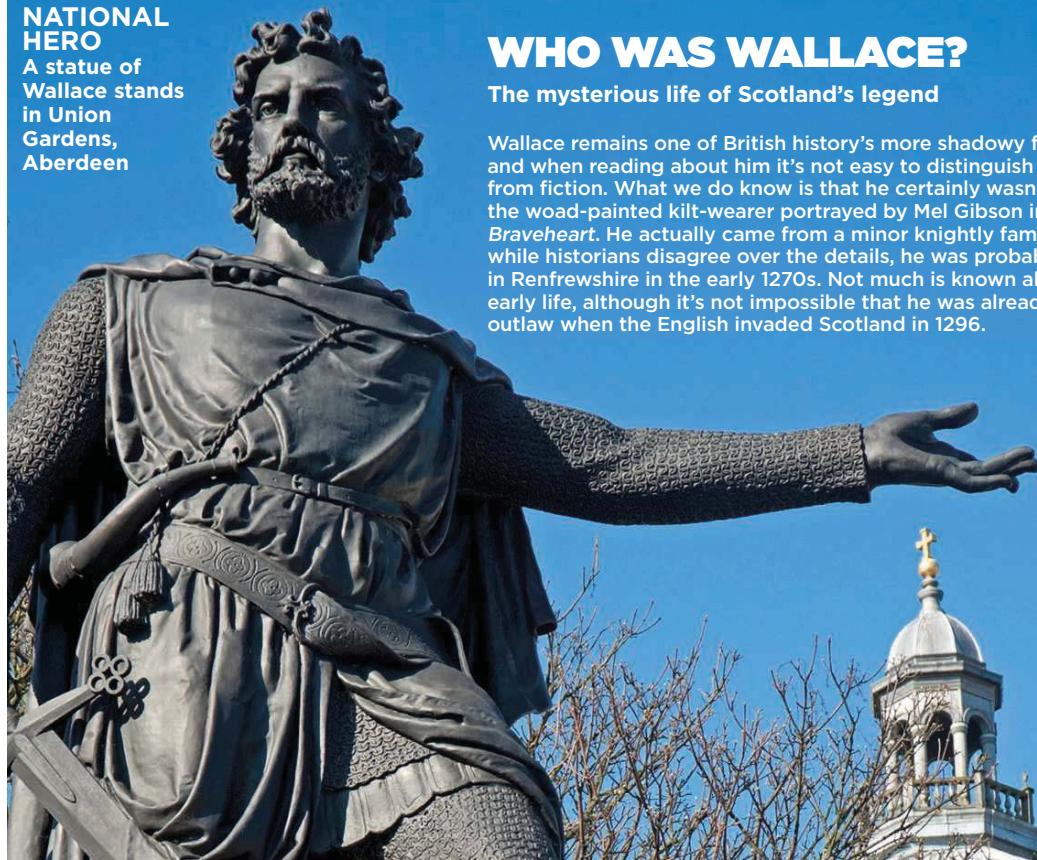
Although this depiction suggests Stirling Bridge collapsed, it was probably pulled down by the English

castle and the Scots camped on the steep slopes of Abbey Craig Hill. Between the two armies flowed the meandering river Forth, which was crossed by a long, wooden bridge resting on eight solid stone piers. Surrey's men were confident. They'd routed the Scots at Dunbar in 1296 and saw no reason why they shouldn't do it again. But first they had to get at them. And that meant crossing Stirling Bridge.

Only Richard Lundie, one of the Scottish knights who'd joined the English at Irvine, had his reservations: "My Lords, if we cross the bridge we are dead men. For we can only go over two by two and the enemy are already formed up; their whole army can charge down upon us whenever

NATIONAL HERO

A statue of Wallace stands in Union Gardens, Aberdeen



WHO WAS WALLACE?

The mysterious life of Scotland's legend

Wallace remains one of British history's more shadowy figures, and when reading about him it's not easy to distinguish fact from fiction. What we do know is that he certainly wasn't the woad-painted kilt-wearer portrayed by Mel Gibson in *Braveheart*. He actually came from a minor knightly family, and while historians disagree over the details, he was probably born in Renfrewshire in the early 1270s. Not much is known about his early life, although it's not impossible that he was already an outlaw when the English invaded Scotland in 1296.

HORSEPOWER

The core of the Earl of Surrey's English army at Stirling was made up of 350 mounted knights.



POINTED RECEPTION

The English were faced with a tightly packed mass of spear-wielding Scots.

FIGHTERS, WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT

Most of Edward I's best troops were fighting with him in Flanders, so the Earl of Surrey's army was hurriedly raised from the counties north of the Trent and bolstered by large numbers of Welsh foot soldiers. The Scottish army was largely made up of lowland spearmen who fought in schiltrons – closely packed blocks of men with the best-armoured fighters in the front ranks. Both armies included contingents of mounted knights, although the English probably had twice as many. Knights were expected to supply their own horses and equipment but were compensated for any losses.



PROTECT AND SURVIVE

Infantry armour ranged from iron helmets to mail shirts to padded jerkins.

GREAT HELM

This was worn by mounted knights. It provided good protection but limited visibility.

“But first they had to get at them. And that meant crossing Stirling Bridge”

DUAL PURPOSE

The iron buckler shield could be used to ward off blows or as a punching weapon.



they will." He pointed out that there was a wide ford near Stirling where a force of horsemen and infantry could cross and outflank the Scots, but Cressingham disagreed – he wanted this expensive business over and done with as quickly as possible.

At sunrise on 11 September, the first English troops began to file across the bridge, but were almost immediately called back because the Earl of Surrey was still asleep. When Surrey finally got up, convinced that Wallace's men were on the point of capitulating, he sent two Dominican friars across the bridge to discuss surrender terms with Wallace and Moray, who were watching affairs develop from the Abbey Craig. Wallace gave these ecclesiastical negotiators short shrift, reportedly saying: "We are not here to make peace but to do battle, defend ourselves and liberate our kingdom."

Battle was now inevitable, and at around 11am, with Cressingham at its head, the English vanguard, about 2,000 men and maybe 100 horsemen, began to cross the narrow bridge. It was a fatal mistake. As one chronicler wrote, "There was indeed no better place in all the land to deliver the English into the hands of the Scots, and so many into the power of the few."

For the Scots it was a tricky moment. Wait too long and the English would have too many men across the river – attack too soon and they'd only defeat a fraction of the English force. They



timed it just right. As the last of the English vanguard crossed the bridge, a signal horn sounded from the Abbey Craig and the Scottish infantry surged forward, catching the English dangerously strung out along the causeway that led from the bridge. Cressingham's archers shot as fast as they could, but there was no stopping the tightly packed blocks of spear-wielding Scots. The

of the English and Welsh plunged into the waters of the Forth in a desperate bid to escape. About 300 managed to swim across to safety, but the padded jerkins of others soaked up the water and dragged them under the surface to drown. A small party of English

"A signal horn sounded and the infantry surged forward"

disorganised English were forced away from the bridge and into a loop of the river, from which there was no escape.

With the bridge now in Scottish hands, Surrey and the main English force on the far side of the river could only look on in horror as the Scots went about their deadly business. Some

knights managed to hack their way to safety across the bridge, but the majority weren't so fortunate. The Constable of Stirling Castle, Richard Waldegrave, was among the slain, as was Cressingham, who was dragged from his horse and despatched without mercy.

The only notable Scottish casualty was Andrew de Moray, who was wounded in the fray and died shortly afterwards.

PILES OF LOOT

Although only part of the English army had been beaten, the sight of the slaughter of their vanguard had knocked the stuffing out of Surrey and his remaining men. Pausing only to cover their retreat by destroying Stirling Bridge, the English fell back to the safety of Berwick. As they did so, Stewart, Lennox and other Scottish lords who had accompanied Surrey on the march north now decided it was a good time to show their hands. Grasping the opportunity to strike a blow for the Scottish cause (and enrich themselves in the process), they suddenly changed sides and fell upon the long,

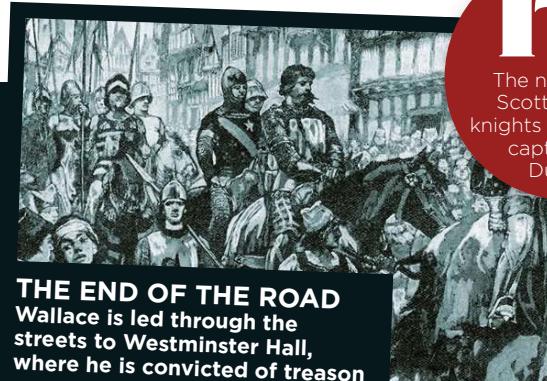
lumbering English baggage train, slaughtering the unfortunate waggons and helping themselves to huge piles of loot.

Wallace and his army stayed at Stirling savouring the spoils of

victory. When they found the body of the hated Cressingham among the piles of English dead, the Scots flayed it and shared out strips of his flesh as grisly souvenirs. Wallace is said to have turned his piece into a belt. ◎

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Victory at Stirling, coupled with Moray's death, left Wallace as the undisputed leader of Scottish resistance. He was knighted, appointed 'Guardian of Scotland', and launched a series of brutal raids into northern England. But in 1298, Edward returned with a huge army, and that July he defeated Wallace at Falkirk. Although Wallace escaped, he resigned the guardianship and was succeeded by Robert Bruce the younger and John Comyn. He then went abroad to seek support for the Scottish cause. When he returned in 1303, he discovered that Bruce had come to terms with Edward, and the following year Comyn sued for peace as well. A substantial price was put on Wallace's head, and in August 1305, he was captured and sent to London to face trial for treason. Although he denied the charge, saying he had never sworn allegiance to Edward, the verdict was a foregone conclusion and Wallace was hanged, drawn and quartered. His head was placed on London Bridge, and his limbs displayed in Newcastle, Berwick, Stirling and Perth. Edward must have thought that Scotland had finally been brought to heel, but the next year, Robert Bruce made himself king, setting into motion a chain of events that would lead to his victory at Bannockburn in 1314 and, in 1328, English recognition of Scottish independence.



THE END OF THE ROAD
Wallace is led through the streets to Westminster Hall, where he is convicted of treason

171

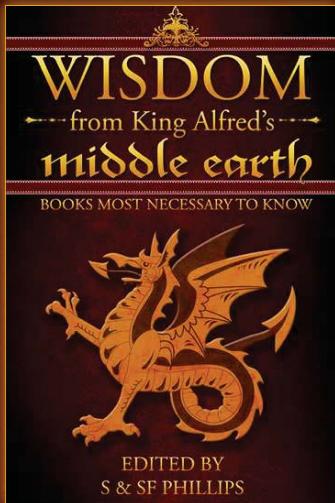
The number of Scottish earls, knights and squires captured at Dunbar

GET HOOKED

Find out more about the battle and those involved

READ

Try Peter Armstrong's *Stirling Bridge and Falkirk 1297-98* for an excellent and well-illustrated overview of Wallace's revolt.



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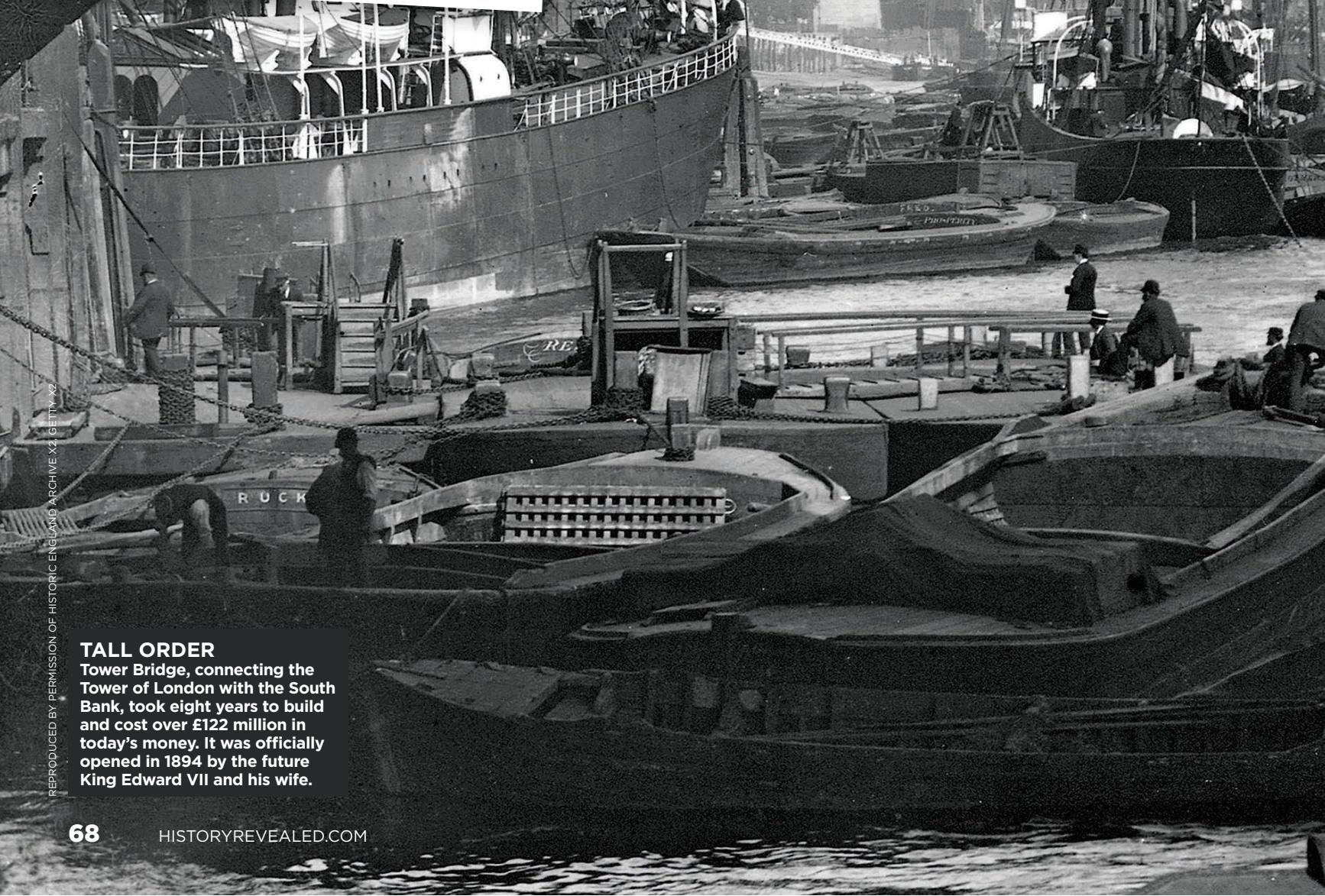
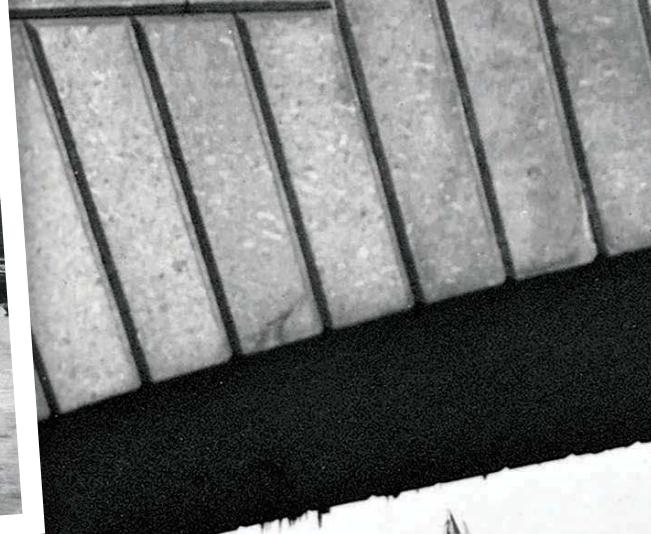
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GRAND DESIGN

ABOVE: The Tower of London defines the skyline at the Pool of London, before the iconic Tower Bridge was built.

LEFT: Tower Bridge under construction. The government ordered that the design blend in with the Tower, but also that it allow tall ships to pass through, as in the main image.



TALL ORDER

Tower Bridge, connecting the Tower of London with the South Bank, took eight years to build and cost over £122 million in today's money. It was officially opened in 1894 by the future King Edward VII and his wife.



REVOLUTION ON THE RIVER

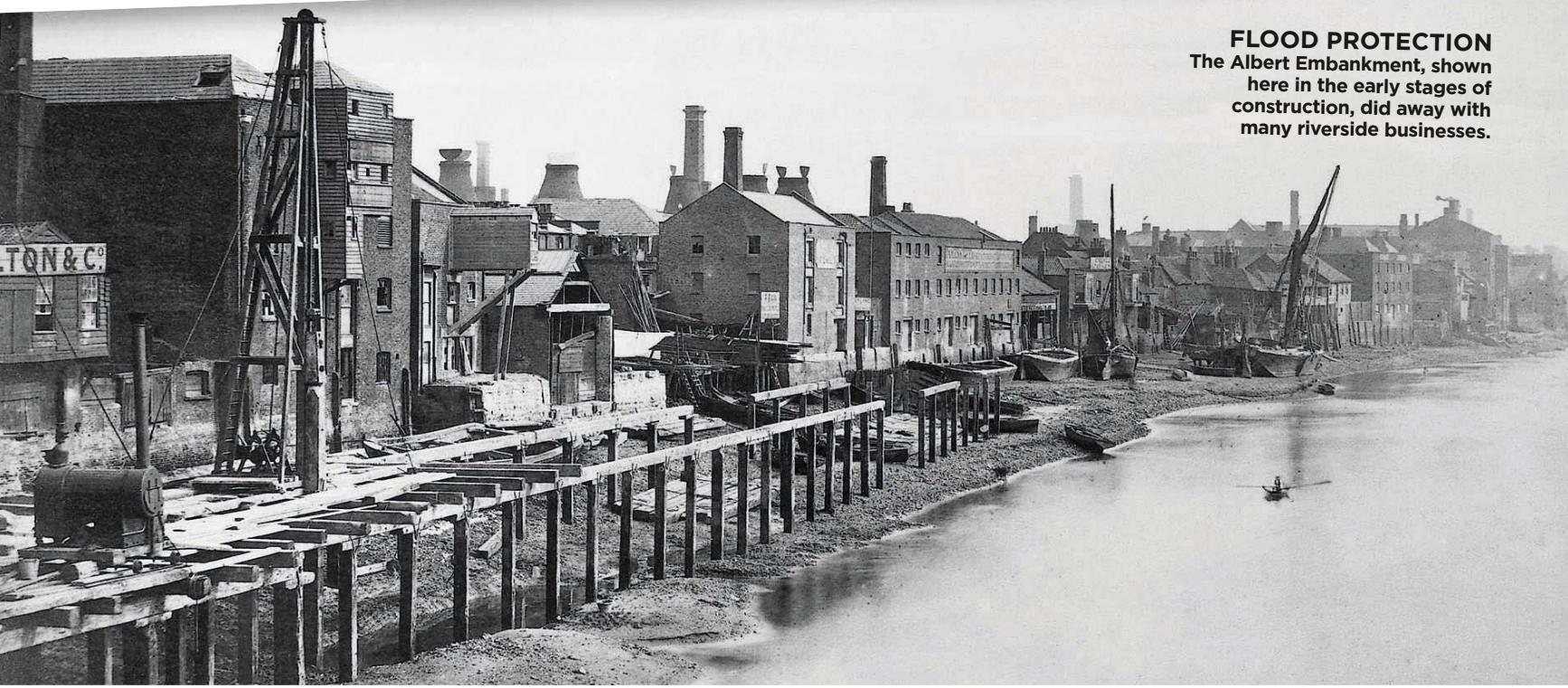
At a time of great change for London, the River Thames was a conduit for the industry and innovation of the 19th century



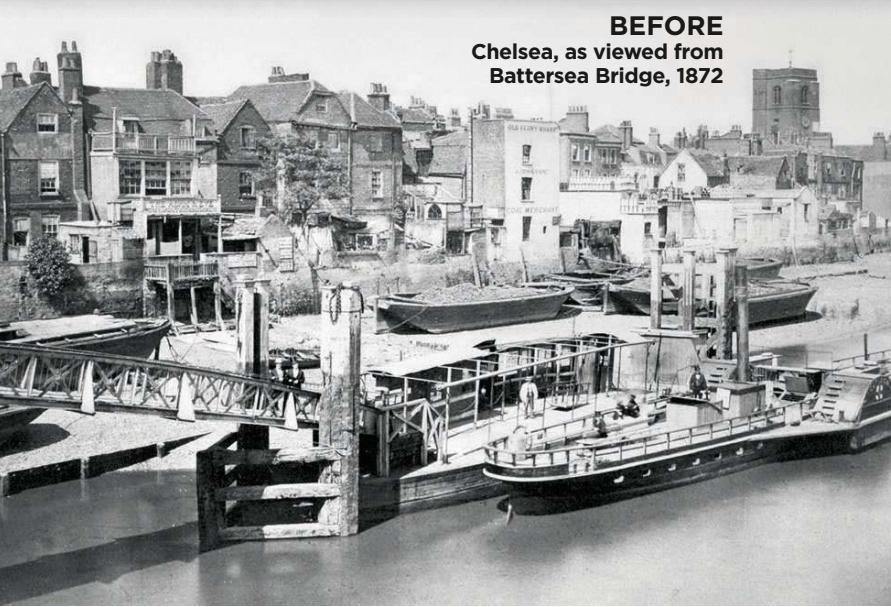
IN PICTURES REVOLUTION ON THE RIVER



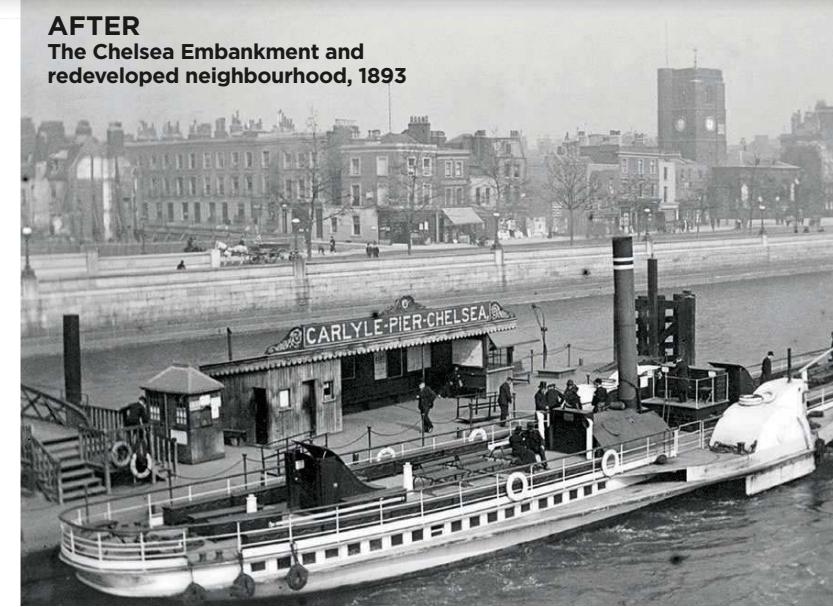
BARGING IN
This bargebuilder's in Lambeth, opposite the Houses of Parliament, did a roaring trade in the 19th century, as barges were the main method of transport along the river.



FLOOD PROTECTION
The Albert Embankment, shown here in the early stages of construction, did away with many riverside businesses.



BEFORE
Chelsea, as viewed from Battersea Bridge, 1872



AFTER
The Chelsea Embankment and redeveloped neighbourhood, 1893

WORKING RIVER

The Thames has always been the artery of London, central to the city's economy



CHILD LABOUR

This view of St Paul's Cathedral shows two dock boys in the foreground. Their job may have included helping ships to moor and depart, load and unload, and complete tasks that the adults could or would not do – all for a meagre wage.

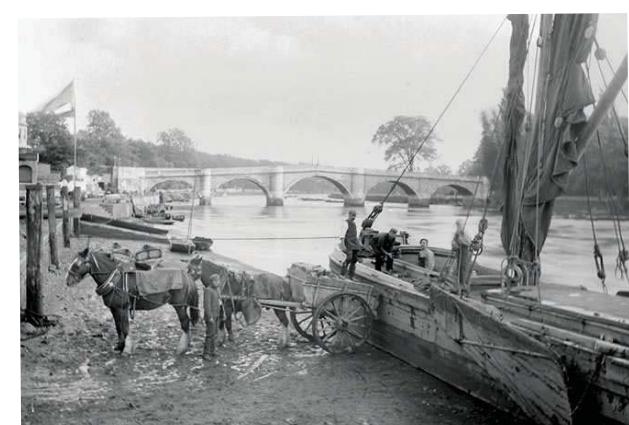


BAIN SAILING

R Bain was a well-established boat builder in Lambeth, before it was closed to make way for the Albert Embankment. It specialised in making smaller boats. In this photograph, three workers stop working to pose eagerly for the photographer.

CARTED OFF

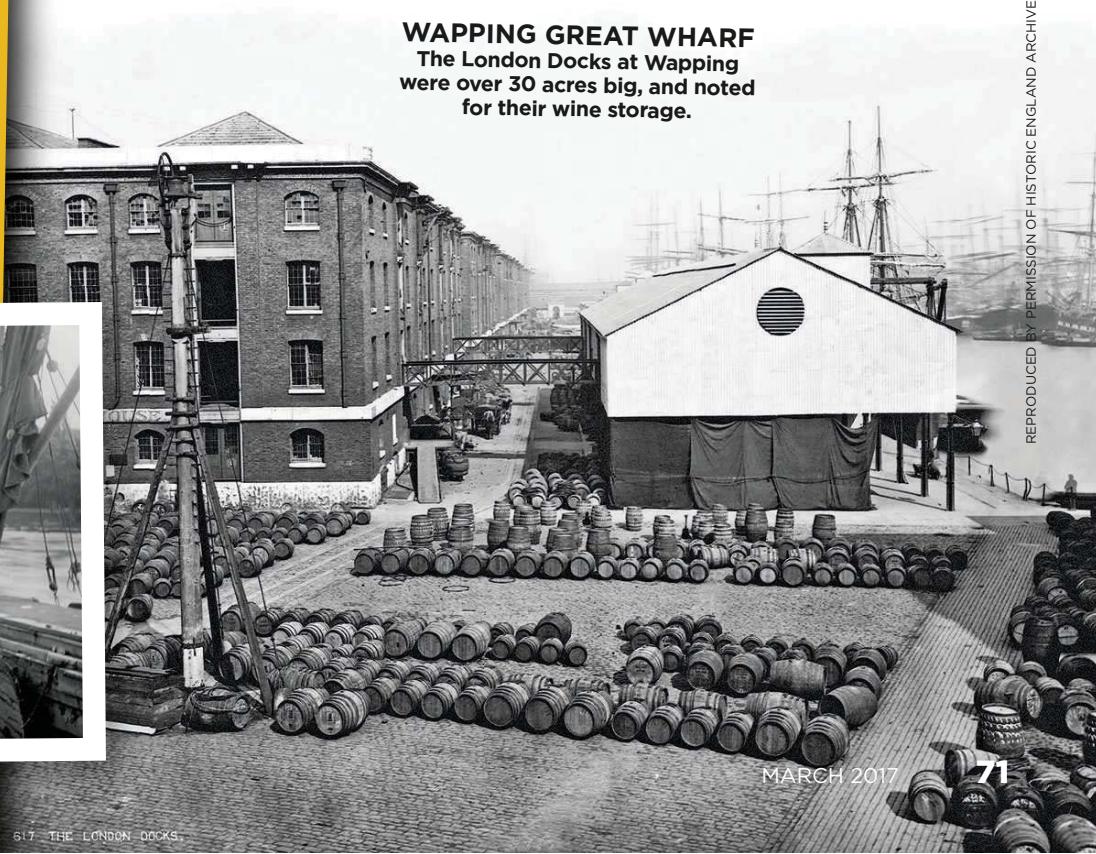
Upstream in the genteel area of Richmond, workers unload a hefty shipment of bricks, to be carried to their destination by horses. In the background is the 18th-century Richmond Bridge, the oldest still-standing Thames crossing in London.



INLAND REVENUE

Custom House was of prime importance to the City business district, as it was used to collect taxes on goods. In the foreground is a barge loaded with hay – a common sight on the Thames when London ran on horse power.

“THE THAMES IS LIQUID HISTORY” – JOHN BURNS, TRADE UNIONIST



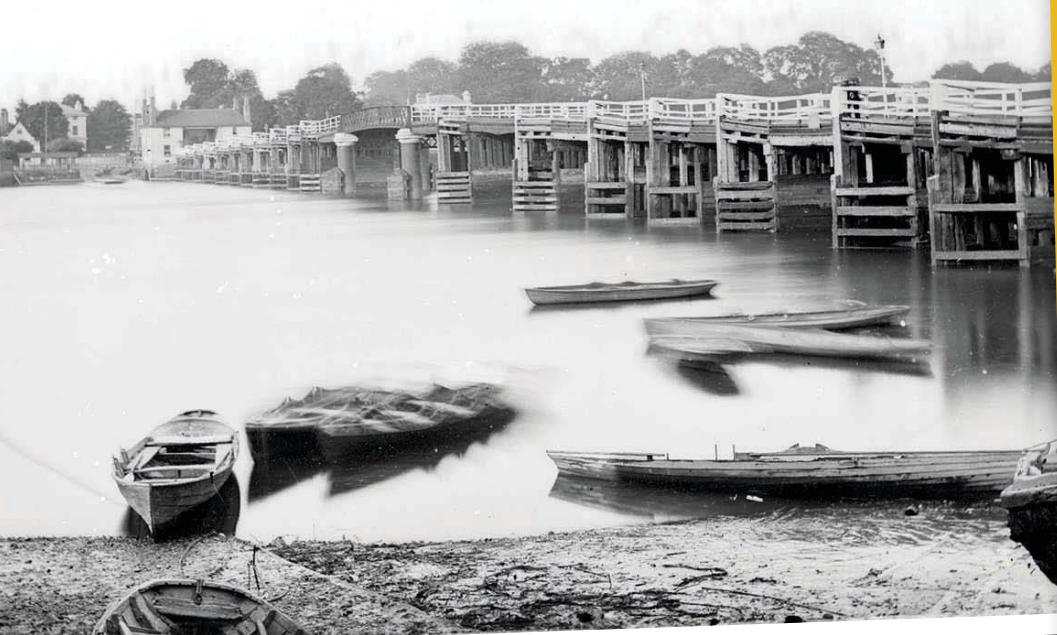
WAPPING GREAT WHARF

The London Docks at Wapping were over 30 acres big, and noted for their wine storage.

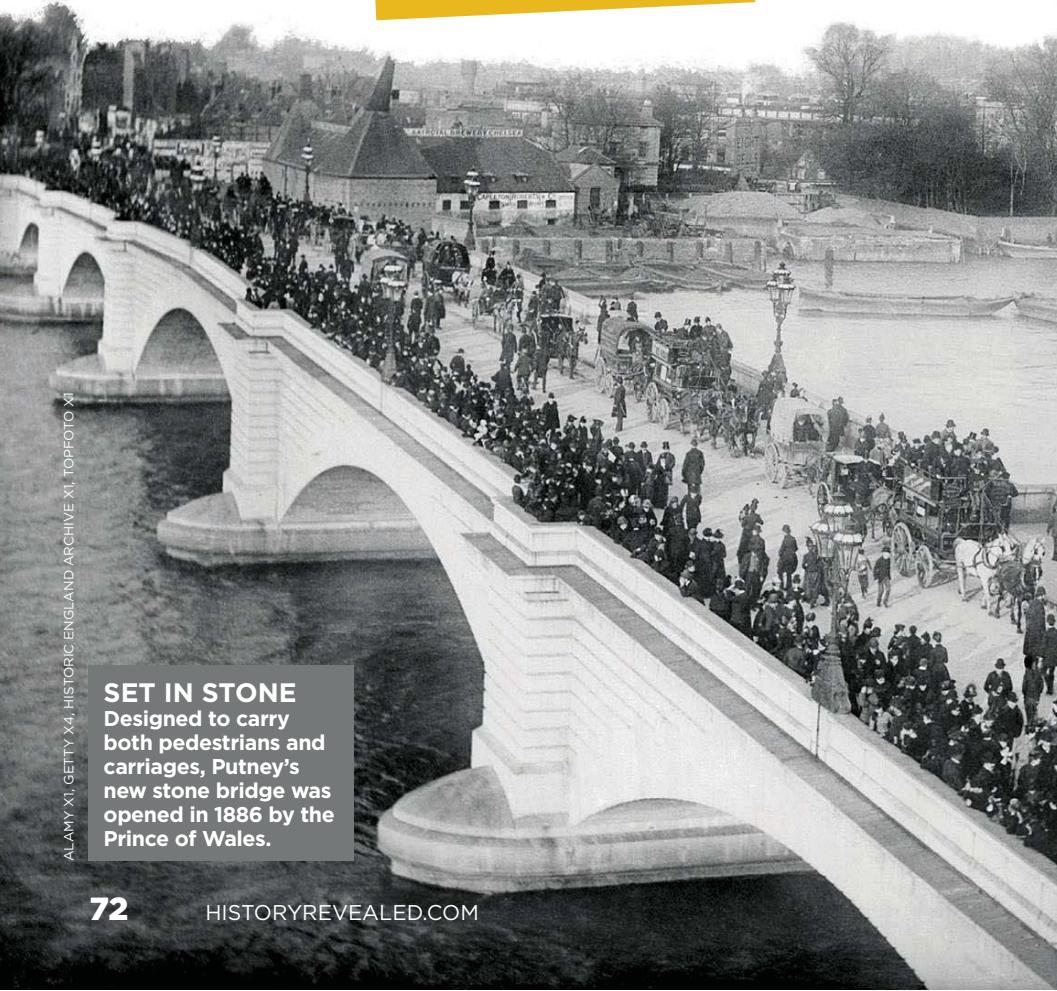


IN PICTURES REVOLUTION ON THE RIVER

TIME TAKES ITS TOLL
The old Putney toll bridge, opened in 1729, was a curved and zig-zag wooden structure. It was severely damaged by a collision in 1870.



**“...AT MY FEET THE PALE
GREEN THAMES LIES LIKE A
ROD OF RIPPLED JADE” –
OSCAR WILDE, SYMPHONY
IN YELLOW**



SET IN STONE
Designed to carry both pedestrians and carriages, Putney's new stone bridge was opened in 1886 by the Prince of Wales.

METAL TITANS

The Thames was used for building iron ships as well as wooden barges



THE IRON LADY

The hull of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's SS *Great Eastern* as it was launched. Built at Millwall in the 1850s, she was the largest ship ever built, designed to carry 4,000 passengers from England to Australia – without stopping for fuel.

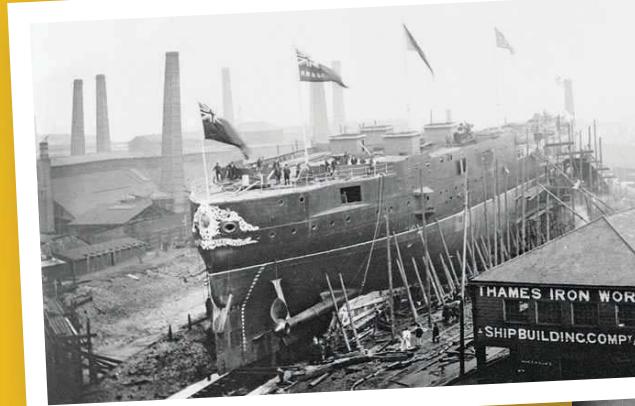


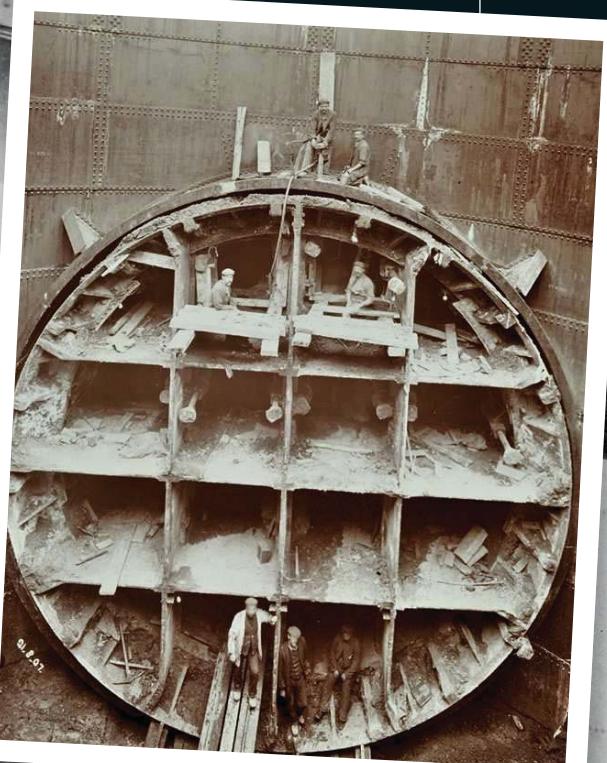
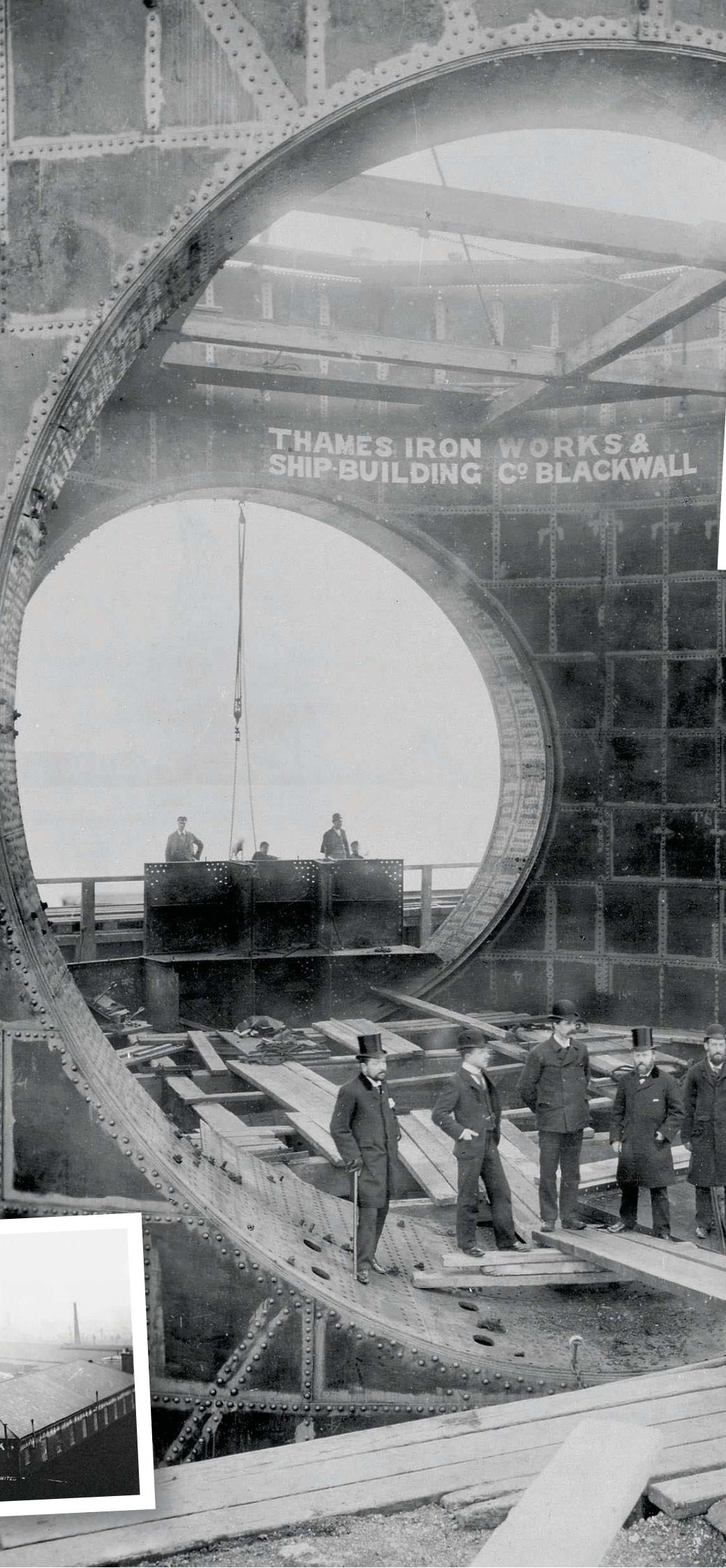
ENGINEERED EVENT

Brunel (second from right) watches the SS *Great Eastern*'s launch. He had hoped that there would be minimal publicity, but thousands turned up. Unbeknownst to him, his company's directors had sold 3,000 spectator tickets to make a quick buck.

BIG BUSINESS

Shown below is the HMS *Sans Pareil*, built in the Thames Ironworks and Shipbuilding Company at the mouth of Bow Creek. They were the largest and most important shipbuilders on the Thames.





GOING UNDERGROUND

MAIN: The Blackwall Tunnel under construction in 1895. At the time, it was the longest underwater tunnel in the world, at over one mile long. INSET: The success of the Blackwall Tunnel inspired the building of further underwater routes, such as the Rotherhithe Tunnel.

GET HOOKED

BOOK

Some of the images seen here have been extracted from *The Thames Through Time: A Liquid History* by Stephen Croad (Batsford 2016).



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NATIONAL TREASURE
Wellington, once an isolated and lonely child, grew to be one of his country's greatest military heroes

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

The life and times of the “last great Englishman” reveal a truly fascinating – yet deeply troubled – character, writes **Alice Barnes-Brown**



THE HISTORY MAKERS THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

The Sun was setting on a soggy Belgian field, littered with the bodies of the men who died that day. The Battle of Waterloo was proving to be an incredibly close call, but Napoleon was growing tired and desperate. Arthur Wesley, the Duke of Wellington, knew that the time to strike had come. In what would be his final battle, Wellington won glory for Britain and relinquished Napoleon's tight grasp on the continent once and for all. But the story of the 'Iron Duke' is more than just a single battle – it is a tale of ambition, family connections and hard graft, which helped the iconic military leader rise from obscurity to worldwide renown.

GROWING PAINS

Thirty years prior, any notion of greatness seemed way out of reach for the young Wesley. The third son of a Protestant Irish aristocratic family, he lacked the prestige and attention given to his older brother, Richard. A lazy and seemingly talentless child, his mother was at a loss. "I don't know what I shall do with my awkward son Arthur," she said, after sending

him to Eton in 1781 had proved unsuccessful. His only real passion there was the violin.

When the boy was 12, his father died, and the family fell on hard times. Arthur was swiftly removed from Eton, and the next year, he and his mother moved to Brussels. Sending him to an equestrian academy in France was his mother's last resort. But upon his return, surprisingly, the teenager impressed her with his new-found horsemanship and French skills. These would later be of invaluable use, but his mother was currently preoccupied with finding her son a job. Utilising the family's connections, she managed to secure him a junior position in the army. Starting as an assistant to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, his early career was a varied one, ranging

from performing social duties for his boss, to being elected an MP aged just 20 in 1790.

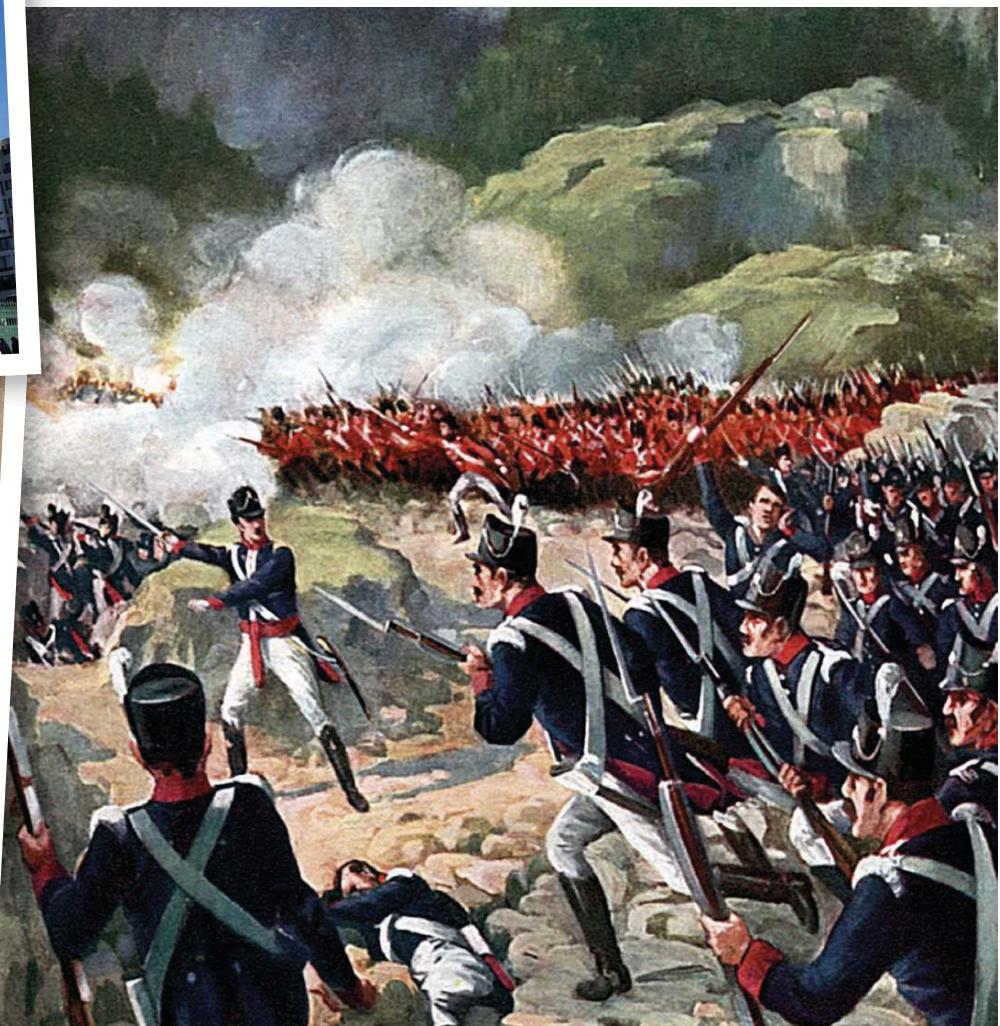
As he rose through the ranks, impressing his superiors and taking advantage of his family ties, he sought the hand in marriage of a young woman named Kitty Pakenham. For all his progress, her family considered Wesley a poor prospect, and refused to endorse the match.

Brokenhearted, the quick-tempered Wesley burned his violins, and resolved to prove his doubters wrong by making a success of himself in the army. Earning a promotion to Major, he marched off to Flanders with his regiment, the 33rd – which would one day become known as the 'Duke of Wellington regiment'.

It was here that he encountered his first action. At Boxtel, Netherlands, in 1794, Wesley found himself in the wrong



"Sending him to Eton had proved unsuccessful. His only real passion was the violin"



THE FORMATIVE YEARS

TOP: Apsley House, Wellington's London home at Hyde Park Corner ABOVE: Kitty Pakenham, Wellington's wife RIGHT: Wellington made a real impression in Portugal with his impressive strategic acumen



WELLINGTON BOOTS

Known as 'wellies', these were a favourite of the Duke. Adapted from army boots, they could be dressed up for evening events.

BITTER RIVALRY

THIS IMAGE: Napoleon grandiosely escapes his exile on the Italian island of Elba
BELOW: The storming of Seringapatam in southern India

place at the wrong time and in charge of his men. After the French forces had pushed the Duke of York into retreat, the 33rd gave battle to distract them, allowing other British forces to safely escape. His experiences in the Low Countries taught him valuable lessons, such as the importance of strategy and efficient use of the Navy. He would put these ideas into practice when he returned to face-off with Napoleon.

In 1797, he was sent to India, where his older brother Richard was the new Governor-General. Supporting the East India Company in their unending desire for more territory, Arthur (who by now had changed his surname to Wellesley) sought the aid of his brother in gaining further authority, displeasing some of his superiors. Marching his men 250 miles through deep jungle, he fought local leader Tipu Sultan and his Mysore men for an entire month in Seringapatam. When the siege ended, Wellesley was first on the scene, checking the Sultan's pulse to ensure that he was well and truly dead.

MAKING A HERO

Wellesley asked for permission to go home in 1804, tiredly stating, "I have served as long in India as any man ought". Still harbouring feelings for Kitty Pakenham, he tried once more for her hand in marriage. Having seen his success in the military, this time her family approved, and the two were wed. However, this was no ordinary love story. Wellesley felt

that she had "grown ugly" during their time apart, but stubbornly went through with the marriage. It was not a happy one. He pursued affairs with other women, and lived apart from Kitty for most of their marriage.

Taking a break from the army, he returned to the political realm in 1807, serving as a Tory MP and Chief Secretary for Ireland. But the vocal jostling of Parliament was nothing compared to the excitement he had seen on the battlefield. When the nation was preparing an expedition to Denmark against Napoleon, he dropped his political duties and eagerly joined.

Once again, the aristocrat distinguished himself. After a successful campaign in Scandinavia, Wellesley was posted to the sunnier climes of the Iberian Peninsula, where he achieved further triumphs. So impressed was the government by his suggestion that the British move their base to Lisbon (based on the fact that it had mountainous borders, and could easily be defended by the mighty Navy), he was appointed head of all British forces in Portugal.

Journeying with his troops into Spain, a country trying to resist invasion by Napoleon, he fought a lengthy war. Eventually, his efforts



BATTLES OF THE BRITISH ARMY, No VI—SERINGAPATAM.

THE STORMING OF SERINGAPATAM: DEATH OF TIPU SULTAN

paid off, and the French were pushed back to their home country. Britain was gripped with Wellesley fever. He came back in 1814 to a fortune of £500,000, while the government awarded him a title with land: the Dukedom of Wellington.

FACING WATERLOO

The nation could not do without Wellington's expertise for long, though. News that Napoleon had escaped from his exile in Elba and was planning on rebuilding his empire drew him back into the military fold. Once the Corsican invaded the beleaguered Belgium, Wellington led approximately 70,000 troops to Waterloo, the place where he would directly encounter Napoleon for the very first – and last – time.

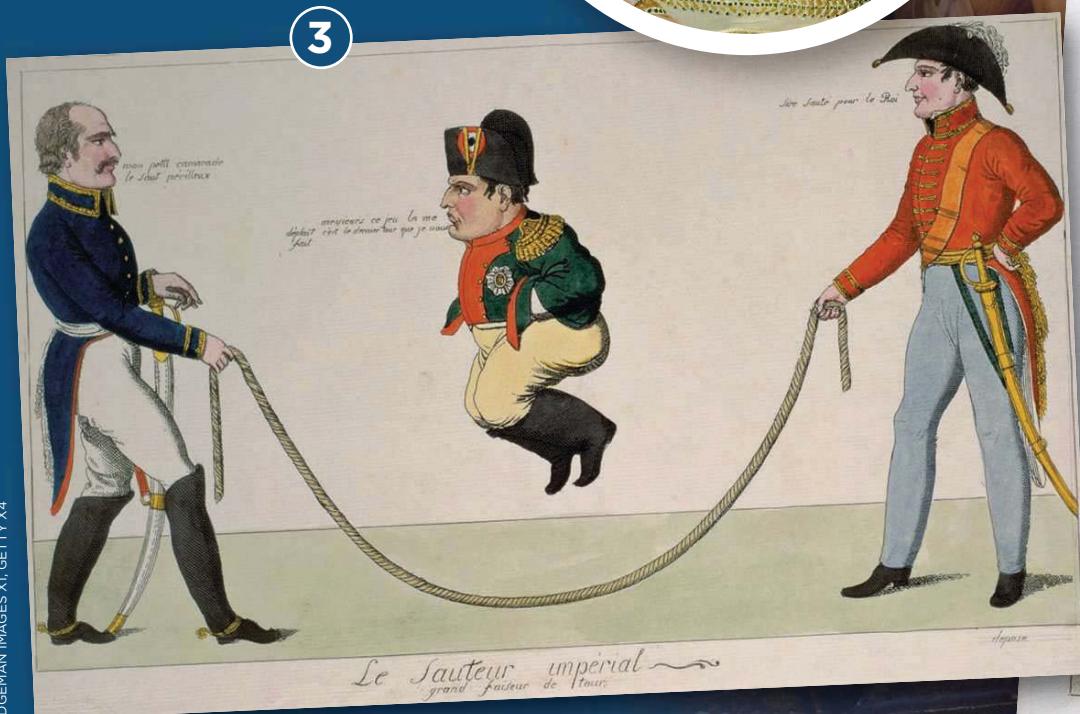
A WAR OF ATTRITION

WELLINGTON VS NAPOLEON

Despite only seeing each other once, and under belligerent circumstances, Wellington and Napoleon shared a mutual rivalry, which extended far beyond the battlefield. In a contest of one-upmanship, the two constantly bickered, even after the latter was safely exiled in St Helena. In Napoleon's will, for example, he bequeathed 10,000 francs to a Monsieur Cantillon, who had allegedly tried to assassinate the Iron Duke in 1818.

Wellington was just as petty. Though he saved Napoleon from execution after his defeat at Waterloo, that didn't mean the Duke wanted *Le Petit Corporal* to have a happy ever after. Wellington was known to have affairs, and he pursued not one but two of Napoleon's ex-girlfriends. To add insult to injury, he also repeatedly tried to seduce Napoleon's sister Pauline, and even bought her a house. In gratitude, she sent him a saucy picture of her, which he hung on his bedroom wall.

Still Wellington was not satisfied with his victory. Despite his well-known indifference to food, he allegedly hired Napoleon's old cook. He then came into the possession of no less than three portraits of Napoleon, which still hang in Apsley House today. But perhaps Wellington's petty pièce-de-résistance is the 11-foot statue of a naked Napoleon at the bottom of his stairs – the arrogant French general had commissioned prolific sculptor Antonio Canova in 1802, and ordered him to depict Napoleon as Mars, the Roman god of war. In 1816, the British government purchased it for Wellington as a thank-you present for Waterloo, and he knew just where to put it.



MUTUAL OBSESSION

1. Wellington's prized possession, the naked Napoleon statue
2. Napoleon's sister Pauline, who Wellington allegedly tried to woo
3. Cartoon of Blucher and Wellington forcing Napoleon to jump
4. A dejected and chained Napoleon is escorted to exile by the Duke



TOO CLOSE TO CALL

Wellington commands his forces at the Battle of Waterloo, which he described as “the nearest-run thing you ever saw in your life”

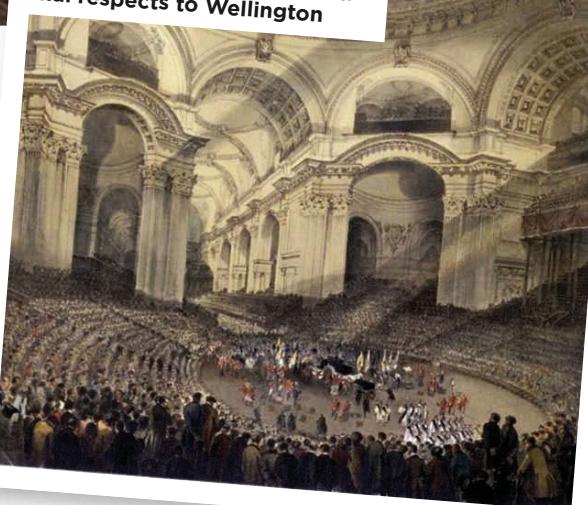


MYTH BUSTED

Wellington's connection to the popular beef dish is tenuous. The Iron Duke did not much care for fancy food

NOT FORGOTTEN

Thousands of people pay their final respects to Wellington



Torrential downpour the day before the battle didn't work in anyone's favour. Hoping that the ground would dry up, Napoleon waited until midday to give the order of battle, a crucial mistake. The delay allowed Wellington to gather more reinforcements from Prussia, a nation keen to exact revenge for all the ills Napoleon had done them as ruler.

Now outnumbering Napoleon, the British and Prussians held off wave after wave of attack, employing a combination of Wellington's excellent strategy and advantageous positioning. Napoleon's trump card was exhausted when they broke through his Imperial Guard, the so-called 'invincibles'. Seeing this, the rest of the French retreated in terror. Hounded back home, Napoleon knew all was lost, and Wellington once again came home a hero.

HOME FRONT

Retiring from the military in his mid-50s, Wellington turned to politics. He served as Constable of the Tower of London, Commander-in-Chief, and even Prime Minister from 1828 to 1830. His term may have been short, but it was defined by the Catholic emancipation of Ireland, granting Catholics nearly full civil rights.

Unsurprisingly, this was not a popular move, and was actually quite out of character for Wellington, who disliked any reform. As such, he opposed the Great Reform Act. When crowds protested and smashed the windows of his London residence, Apsley House, he installed iron shutters, earning himself the nickname the Iron Duke. His staunch conservatism lost him a vote of no confidence in 1830.

When his wife died in 1831, Wellington was deeply upset, as they had "come to understand each other in the end". Three years later, his great friend Harriet Arbuthnot passed, which equally saddened him. Wellington and her widower, Charles, lived out the remainder of their lives in each other's elderly company at Apsley.

In his old age, the great Duke was becoming increasingly frail. In 1852, he died sitting in his chair, after a stroke caused a series of seizures. Despite hating trains in life (having witnessed a tragic accident, in which his friend William Huskisson, MP for Liverpool, was killed after being struck by George Stephenson's Rocket), in death his body was taken by rail to St Paul's Cathedral, where it was interred and

given a state funeral – one of only 11 British subjects to have received such an honour. The poet Laureate, Alfred Lord Tennyson, read a beautiful eulogy and implored the congregation of 13,000 to remember him as the "foremost captain of his time", the "last great Englishman".

Nowadays, when we think of Wellington, the rubber boots he popularised are sometimes the first thing to spring to mind. But his patriotic legacy endures – he was rated number 15 in the BBC's Greatest Britons poll in 2002. His influence stretches to the farthest reaches of the earth, as far as Wellington, New Zealand, a city named by its settlers after their hero. He lives on through the statues, buildings, and monuments in the country he devoted his life to serving. ☺

PRIME MINISTER WELLINGTON, AFTER HIS FIRST CABINET MEETING, 1828

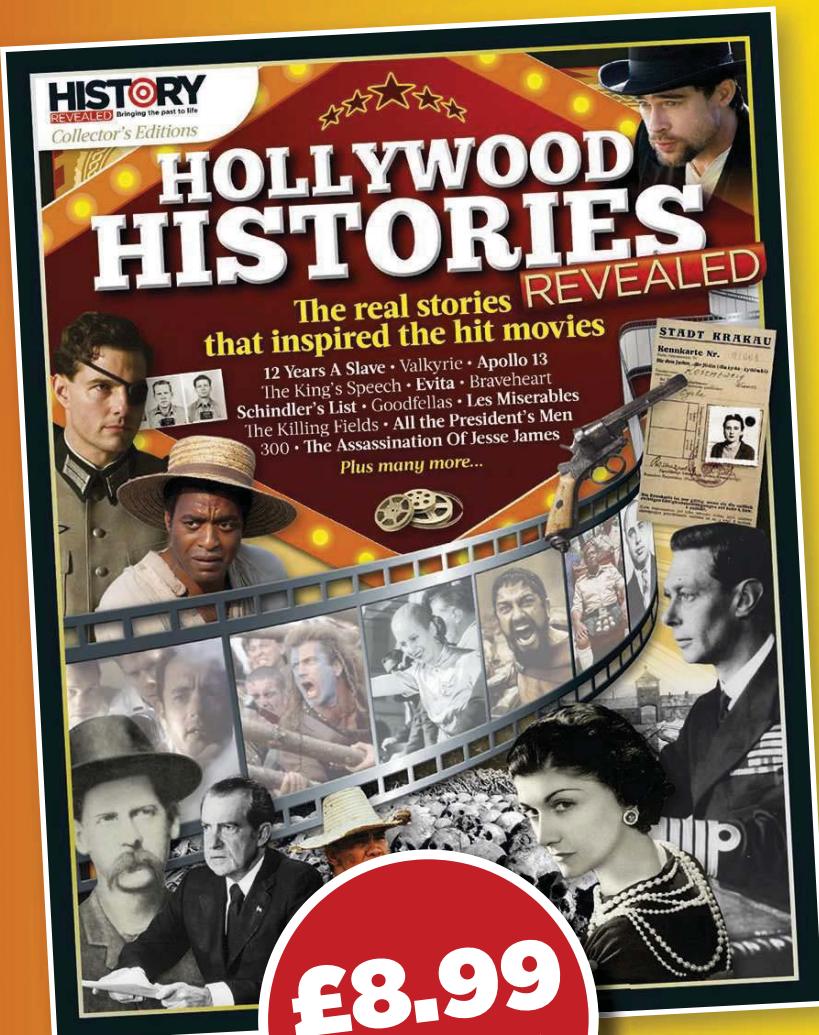
“An extraordinary affair. I gave them their orders and they wanted to stay and discuss them”



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Was Wellington really the “last great Englishman”?
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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

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• **HOW DID THEY DO THAT? p84 • WHAT IS IT? p87**

OUR EXPERTS

EMILY BRAND

Social historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)



ADAM JACOT DE BOINOD

Author and journalist, worked on series one of the BBC panel game *QI*



GREG JENNER

Consultant for BBC's *Horrible Histories* series and author of *A Million Years in a Day* (2015)



JULIAN HUMPHREYS

Development Officer for The Battlefields Trust and author



SANDRA LAWRENCE

Writer and columnist, with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects



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Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University



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When (and why) did people stop hunting witches?

The western world has had a conflicted relationship with magic, with the notorious witch-hunting craze of the 1600s providing its violent climax. But while vengeful hags became the stereotype, for centuries

communities consulted folk healers or 'wise women' for medical advice – sometimes turning on them in times of uncertainty, even if their 'powers' had only done good before. Largely, terror faded as 'enlightened' ideas undermined the popular

beliefs in magic and established religion. Candidates for the last woman convicted of witchcraft in England are Jane Wenham (1712) and Mary Hickes (1716), but lynchings of suspected witches continued well into the 1800s. EB

DID YOU KNOW?
TOIL AND TROUBLE
From 1484 until around 1750, some 200,000 'witches' were tortured, burned or hanged in western Europe

Who was Ivar the Boneless?

Target The wonderfully named 'Ivar the Boneless', son of the even more improbable 'Ragnar Hairy Breeches', was one of the leaders of the Great Heathen Army of Danes that invaded England in AD 865. Ivar and his brother Ubba are attributed with the defeat of the Northumbrians and the capture of York, later to become the major Viking centre of Jorvik. He is also renowned for the gory execution of royal prisoners, most notably the East Anglian king (and later saint) Edmund, who was beaten, tied to a tree, shot with arrows and then beheaded, and Ælle of Northumbria, who had his ribcage and lungs pulled out, a type of killing known as the 'Blood Eagle'. It is not known how Ivar came by the nickname 'the Boneless', although some have suggested it could have been due to an unnatural flexibility during combat or because he suffered from a degenerative muscular disorder, eventually resulting in him having to be carried everywhere. Until his body is recovered – which is difficult if he really was 'boneless' – we will never know. **MR**



A 12th-century illumination depicting Ivar and his Heathen army

WHAT CONNECTS...

DR FRANK-N-FURTER AND GENERAL CHARLES DE GAULLE?



1 Played by Tim Curry, Dr Frank-N-Furter was a lead character in the 1975 cult classic film *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*



2 Much of the filming for the movie took place at Oakley Court, a mid-19th-century mock-Gothic mansion near the Thames at Bray.



3 Oakley Court is now a hotel, but during World War II it is reputed to have been a headquarters for the French Resistance.



4 Leader of the French Resistance and later president, General Charles de Gaulle, is said to have been a frequent visitor.

2

The number of dogs that were carried on the *Mayflower* voyage in September 1620 – the first ship to transport persecuted pilgrims over to the New World. There were also about 150 humans on board.

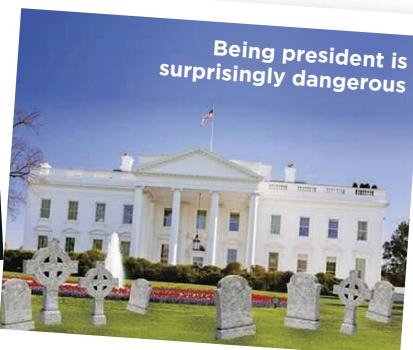
When was the button invented?

Target Today most buttons are used as fastenings on clothes, though the Americans use the word to refer to what the British term 'badges'. In fact, the very earliest buttons were more like badges, being used for ornamental purposes. Archaeologists have found ornamental shell or pottery buttons dating to 2500 BC on Indus Valley civilisation sites, while the first Chinese buttons date to 1500 BC. The earliest-known use of buttons to fasten clothes was by the wild Magyar horsemen who swept into central Europe in the middle of the 9th century. Those suffering the invasions were understandably too busy

to notice the fashion innovations of the invaders, but archaeologists have found the button fastenings in graves. By around 1200, buttons were being used to fasten the clothes of German nobles. The new, more secure fastening method led to a revolution in clothing. Combined with curved seams, developed around 1300, buttons allowed clothing to be cut to fit for the first time. By the year 1400, tailoring had evolved as an art and the modern forms of clothing for men and women had been developed. **RM**

WHY DO WE SAY TO SEND SOMEONE TO COVENTRY

From a 17th-century Civil War punishment, when Coventry was a Parliamentary stronghold. Royalist prisoners were sent there as it was believed they would be ignored.



HOW MANY US PRESIDENTS DIED IN OFFICE?

Target Of the 45 men who have occupied the Oval Office, eight have died during their term. The first was William Henry Harrison (1841) whose presidency was the shortest in history thanks to his inaugural speech being the longest: he delivered it in the rain and caught pneumonia. Zachary Taylor (1850) caught cholera from cherries washed in dirty water. Disease also claimed Warren G Harding (1923) and Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1945) with a stroke and cerebral haemorrhage, respectively. The other four – JFK (1963), Abraham Lincoln (1865), William McKinley (1901) and James Garfield (1881) – were all killed by an assassin's bullet, though Garfield survived the attack only to get blood poisoning from his surgeon's unsterilised scalpel. **JH**

IN A NUTSHELL

TREATY OF VERSAILLES

How a peace agreement ended one war and started another



What was it?

Signed on 28 June 1919 – five years after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, an event widely acknowledged to have sparked the outbreak of war – the Treaty of Versailles was the peace document that marked the official end of World War I.

What was its main purpose?

Although the German government had agreed to accept US president Woodrow Wilson's proposals for a fair peace settlement in October 1918, the Allies were determined that Germany should pay "for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allies and their property by the aggression of Germany by land, by sea and from the air."

Who signed the Treaty?

Twenty-seven nations were in attendance at the Paris Peace Conference that decided the terms of the Treaty, although Germany and its defeated allies were not allowed to sit at the conference table. The conference was dominated by US president Woodrow Wilson, British prime

minister David Lloyd George, French prime minister Georges Clemenceau and prime minister Vittorio Orlando of Italy – often referred to as 'the big four'. Hundreds of delegates signed the Treaty, with the signing ceremony taking place in the palace's magnificent Hall of Mirrors.

What were the main terms?

The final treaty – the result of some five months of negotiations – comprised 15 parts and 440 articles. German armed forces were to be restricted to 100,000 men, six battleships (although no submarines or

Lorraine, which had been incorporated into the German Empire in 1871, was returned to France and Germany was forbidden from uniting with Austria.

The Treaty also gave the Polish corridor between Germany and East Prussia, and the farmlands of Posen, both in eastern Germany, to Poland, while Danzig (now the Polish city of Gdańsk) was made a free city under United Nations control. Germany lost all of its colonies in China, the Pacific and Africa under the Treaty – these

of compensation, it was viewed as a national humiliation in Germany and bitterly resented.

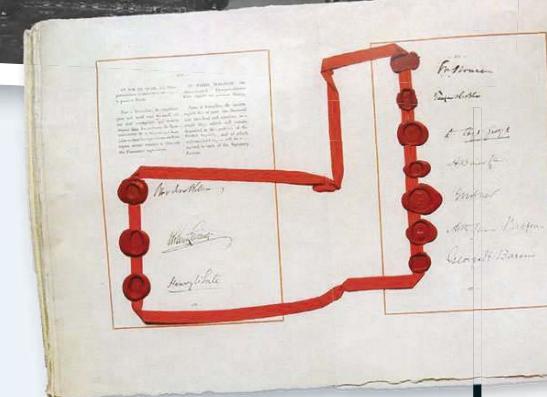
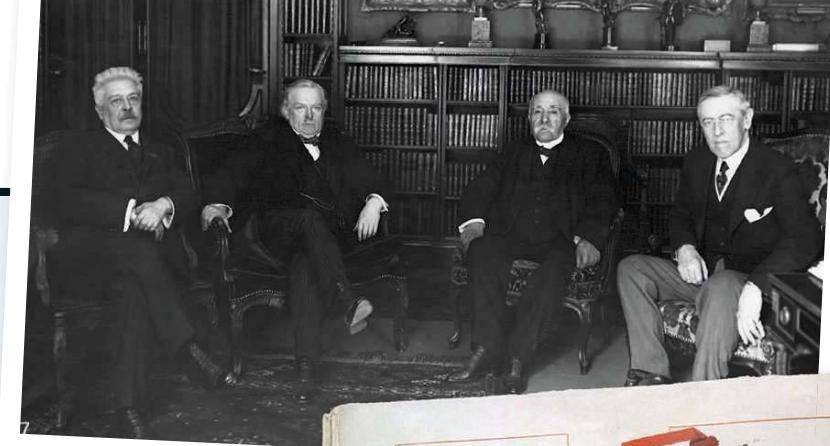
Did Germany have to pay any money in compensation?

Yes, although the final amount was not settled upon until 1921. The first reparation demands were \$63 billion (close to \$768 billion today) but this was eventually reduced to \$33 billion (about \$402 billion today). Germany made its final reparations payment in 2010, nearly 92 years after its defeat.

How did Germany react to the Treaty?

The German government signed the Treaty under protest and was bitterly resentful of its terms. Right-wing German parties felt betrayed, referring to it as the *Diktat* (dictated peace) since they had been forced to accept it; some politicians deemed responsible for the country's poor position were even assassinated. Many felt that the Allies had reneged on the terms agreed at the Armistice in 1918, and the war clause and high sum of reparations in particular fostered deep resentment in Germany. "May the hand wither that signs this treaty", declared German chancellor Philipp Scheidemann, who resigned rather than sign it.

Ultimately, it provided Adolf Hitler an ideal platform from which to garner support for a second world war.



ABOVE: From left to right: Orlando, Lloyd-George, Clemenceau and Wilson
RIGHT: The signed treaty

"May the hand wither that signs this treaty!"

German chancellor Philipp Scheidemann

tanks) and no airforce. The area of western Germany known as the Rhineland, which had been occupied by Allied forces following the Armistice, was demilitarised and German troops forbidden from going within 30 miles of it. Alsace-

were given to France, Britain and other Allied nations – and the Saarland was placed under the supervision of the League of Nations until 1935. Germany lost approximately 13 per cent of its pre-war territory and all of its overseas possessions.

What was the War Guilt Clause?

Clause 231 – often known as the War Guilt Clause – was one of the most controversial terms of the Treaty. Although the word 'guilt' did not appear, clause 231 forced Germany to accept responsibility for causing World War I and served as a legal basis for Germany to pay reparations. Although the clause was added as a way of getting France and Belgium to agree to a lower sum

German soldiers reoccupy the Rhineland in 1936





HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

THE GREEK TEMPLE

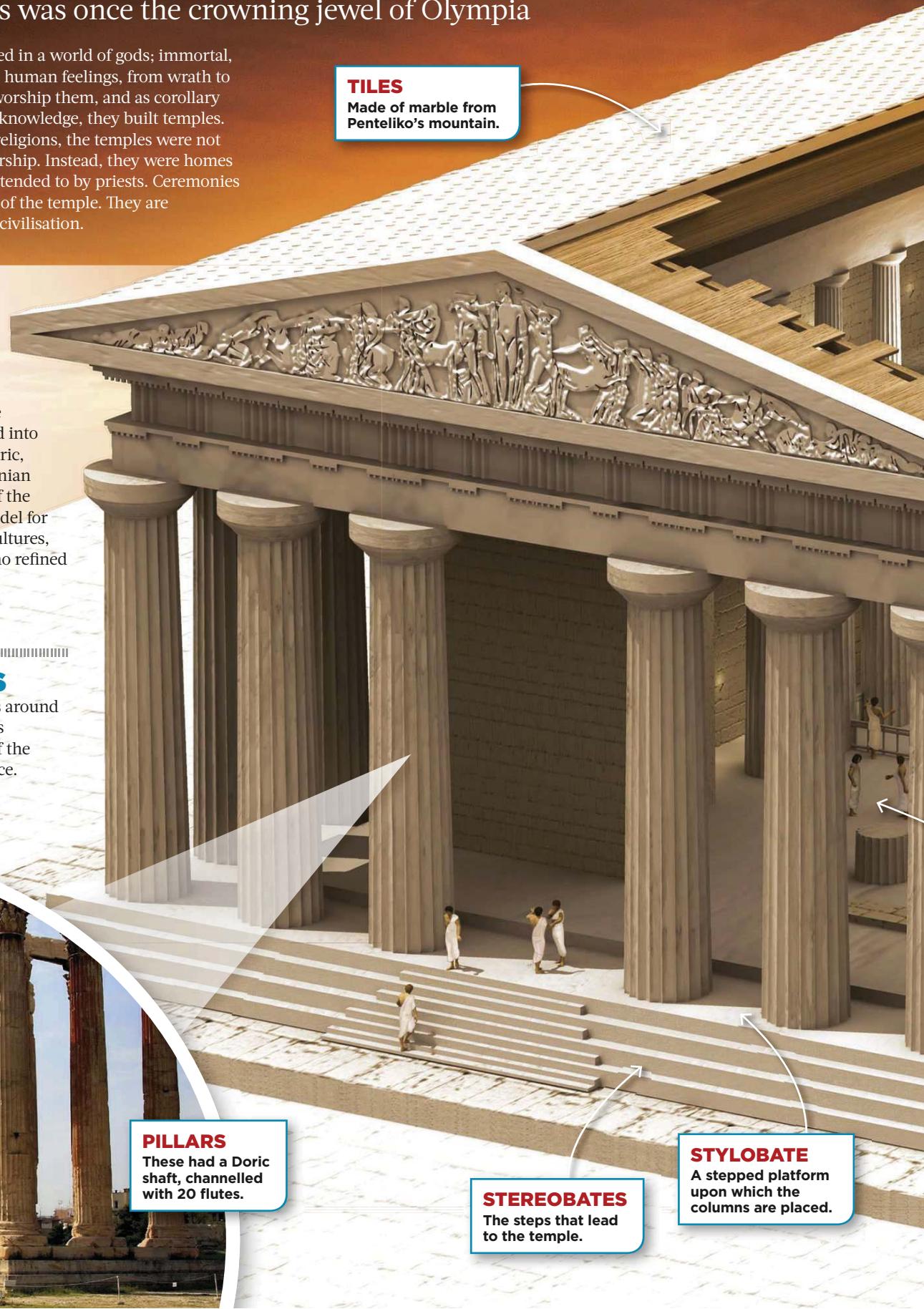
The Temple of Zeus was once the crowning jewel of Olympia



The Ancient Greeks lived in a world of gods; immortal, although subjugated to human feelings, from wrath to jealousy and envy. To worship them, and as corollary of their advanced architectural knowledge, they built temples. However, unlike with modern religions, the temples were not used by ordinary people for worship. Instead, they were homes for statues of gods, which were tended to by priests. Ceremonies and festivals took place outside of the temple. They are now considered icons of Greek civilisation.

TILES

Made of marble from Penteliko's mountain.



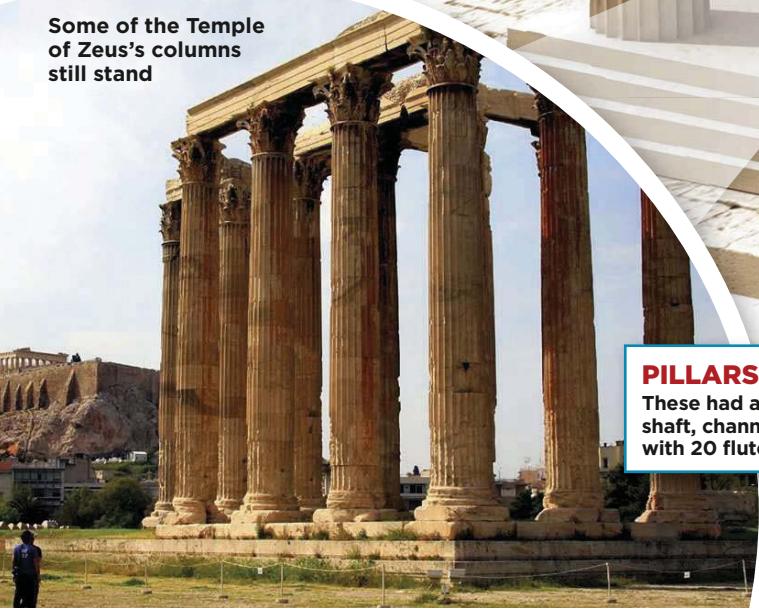
THE THREE ORDERS

The first Greek temples date back to the ninth century BC. Over time, they became more elaborate. They can be divided into three architectural orders: Doric, like the Athens Parthenon, Ionic and Corinthian. The beauty of the Greek temples served as a model for the buildings of many later cultures, starting with the Romans, who refined Hellenic architecture.

ELGIN MARBLES

London's British Museum has around 30 per cent of the Parthenon's huge frieze, considered one of the masterpieces of Ancient Greece.

Some of the Temple of Zeus's columns still stand



PILLARS

These had a Doric shaft, channelled with 20 flutes.

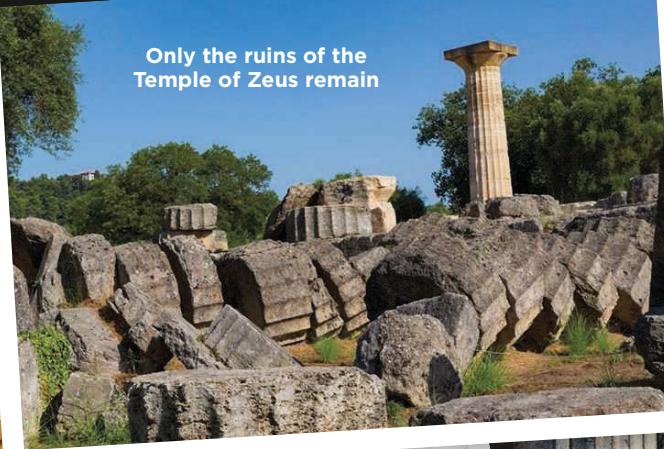
STEREOBATES

The steps that lead to the temple.

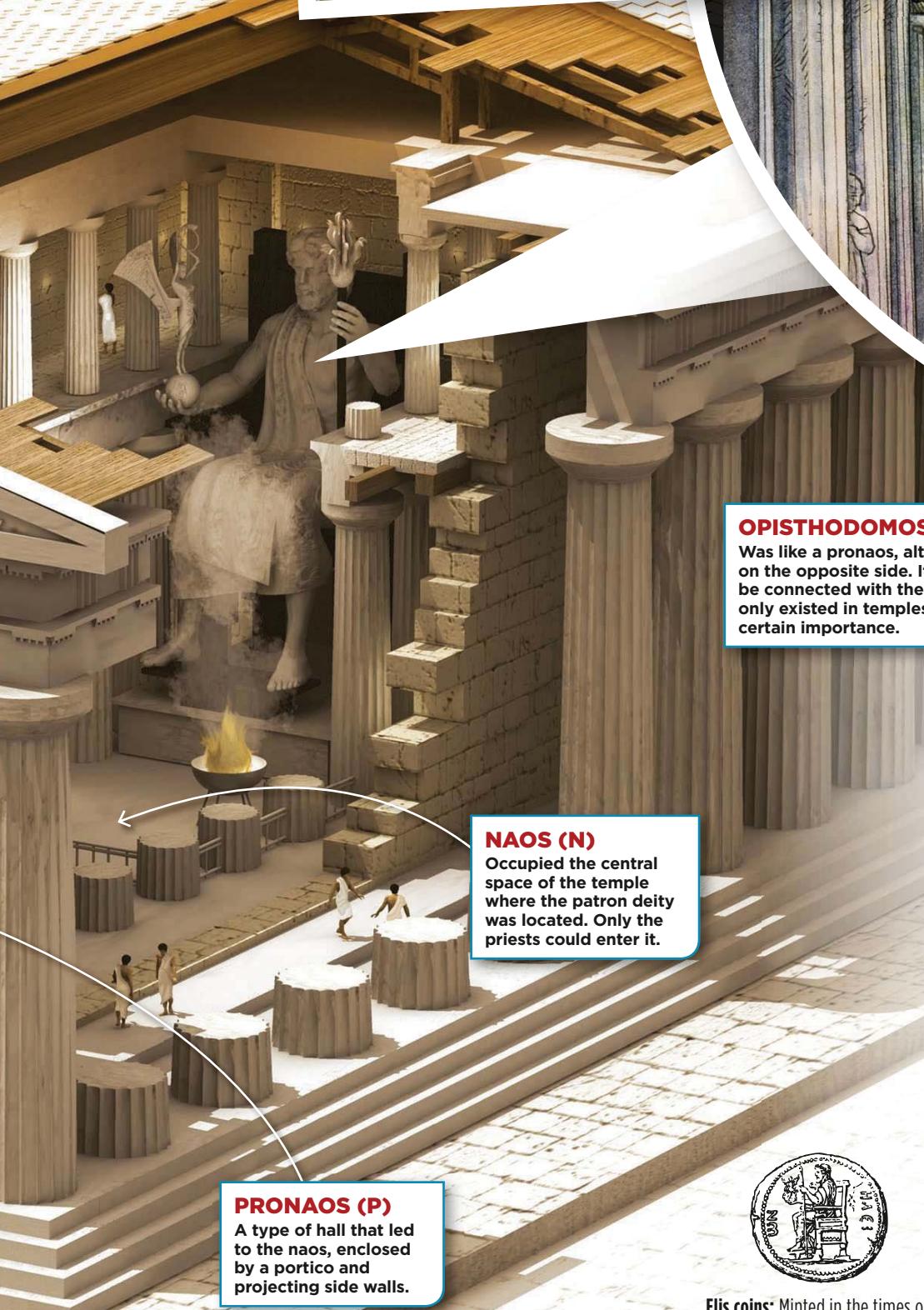
STYLOBATE

A stepped platform upon which the columns are placed.

Only the ruins of the Temple of Zeus remain



The Statue of Zeus was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World



NAOS (N)

Occupied the central space of the temple where the patron deity was located. Only the priests could enter it.

PRONAOS (P)

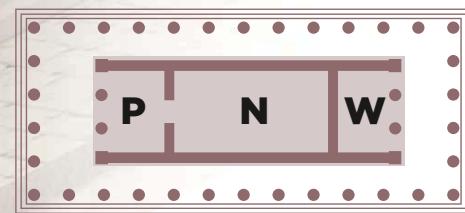
A type of hall that led to the naos, enclosed by a portico and projecting side walls.

OPISTHODOMOS (W)

Was like a pronaos, although on the opposite side. It could be connected with the naos. It only existed in temples of certain importance.

THE TEMPLE OF ZEUS IN OLYMPIA

Built in the mid-fifth century BC on a former famous sanctuary, it is considered the perfect model of a Doric style temple. The excavations and research works that started in 1829 still continue today.



Elis coins: Minted in the times of Adrian, around the 2nd century, these are the only graphic references of the Zeus statue.



12m

STATUE OF ZEUS

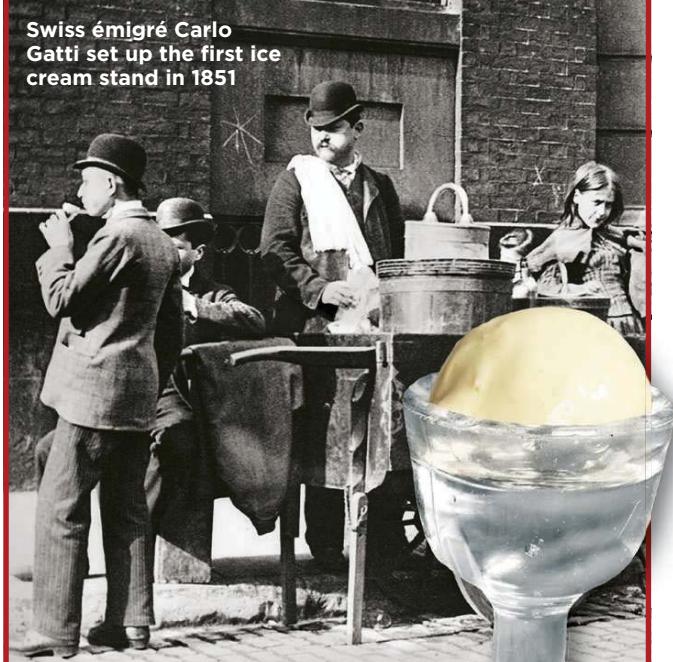
This was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It was carved in marble by the sculptor Phidias around 430 BC, and was 12 metres high. The date and causes of its destruction and loss are still unknown.



WE ATE WHAT?!

PENNY LICKS

Decent ice cream was still a luxury in Victorian England, but cheap ices were available from street vendors across the land. 'Hokey Pokey' men used all kinds of tricks to make their wares go further. Penny Licks were attractive-looking glass vessels that held a small amount of ice cream, selling, naturally, for a penny. Customers licked-clean the contents, then gave the cup back. What they didn't know was the cups were carefully created with thick glass to look as though they held more than they really did. Moreover, they were used repeatedly without being cleaned, making them perfect conductors for disease. A pastry ice-cream holder was patented in New York in 1903 and, for obvious reasons, wafer-style ice cream cones quickly caught on. SL



MYTH BUSTING

Who was the **first woman in Britain to qualify as a doctor?**

It wasn't Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, although she was the first to qualify as a woman. After being barred by medical schools on account of her gender, Anderson discovered that the Society of Apothecaries did not specifically forbid women from sitting their examinations. In 1865, she passed their exams and was awarded a licence to practise medicine (the Society promptly changed its rules to prevent other women from doing the same thing). However, another woman, Margaret Ann Bulkeley, had actually qualified

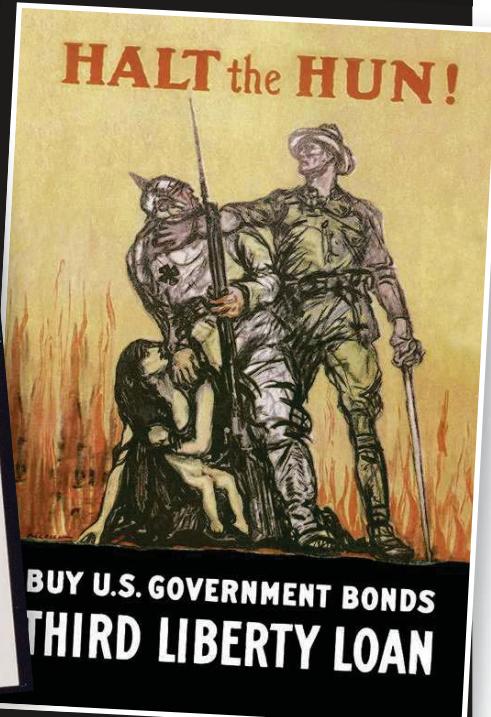
50 years earlier using a different approach. Posing as a man called James Barry, she attended Edinburgh medical school before joining the army as a surgeon in 1813. She went on to have a long and successful career, rising to become inspector-general of military hospitals. JH

The term was used on propaganda posters like these

DID YOU KNOW?

DEATHBED OF ROSES

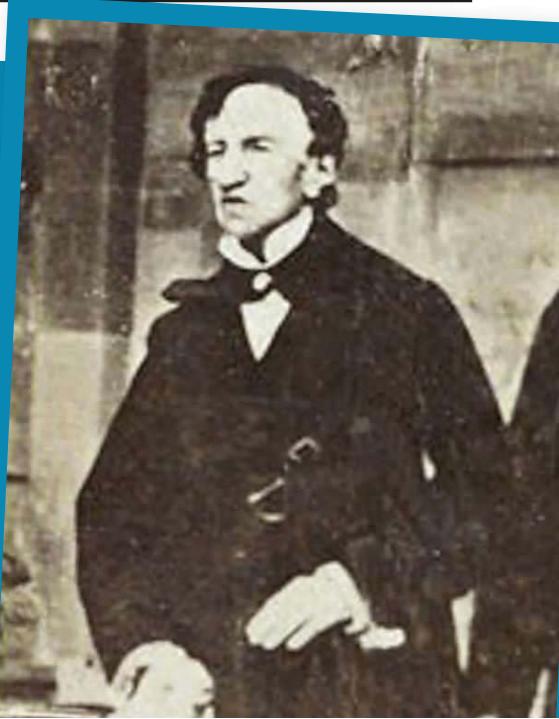
The oldest record of garden roses comes in the form of an Egyptian tomb painting from 1500 BC



WHY DID THE ALLIES CALL GERMANS 'HUNS' DURING WORLD WAR I?

The original Huns were a nomadic tribe, probably originating from Mongolia, who, under the leadership of Attila, terrorised the Roman Empire in the mid-fifth century, extorting large sums of money with menaces. Considered by Rome to be the ultimate of all savage 'Barbarians', Attila the Hun was referred to as the 'Scourge of God'. Throughout the Middle Ages, Attila was regularly depicted in art as the antichrist and his army as a horde of demons. In the mid-19th century, the

Hun was resurrected as an Asiatic foe at the same time the British Empire came to view China as a direct threat. In the early months of World War I, the allies applied the term 'Hun' to the forces of Germany and Austro-Hungary in order to conjure up images of a bestial foe. This can be seen, most notably, in a series of striking 'Beat Back the Hun' / 'Halt the Hun' posters, designed to persuade the American people to buy war bonds, in which the enemy is shown as a blood-crazed barbarian. MR



It was only after James Barry's death that people realised his true gender

Scouting for the answer and need a little guidance? The clue's right here



SEE ANSWERS BELOW

What was the Debatable Land?



The current Anglo-Scottish border was established by the Treaty of York in 1237 and it's remained largely unchanged ever since. There have, however, been one or two trouble spots. One was the important frontier town of Berwick, which changed hands several times before it was captured for England by the future Richard III in 1482. The other was 'the Debatable Land', a 40-square-mile stretch of land near the Solway Firth that both countries claimed. Because neither kingdom would admit that the other had authority over it, neither could hold the other responsible for what happened there. As a result, the Debatable Land became a haven for border reiver families who raided, looted and plundered across both sides of the border. In 1552, a ditch was dug across the area dividing it into England and Scotland, but it wasn't until James VI of Scotland also became king of England in 1603 that the criminal activities were finally suppressed. JH



WHAT IS IT?
2,000 YEARS AGO, THIS WOULD HAVE SMELT A LOT MORE APPETISING



WAS KENSINGTON GORE INVENTED IN KENSINGTON?



Theatrical 'death' has always needed 'blood' of some sort. Homemade substitutes in Shakespearian times might have included vermillion and other paints, with 'body parts' made from dough, and actors made-do with cochineal and corn syrup well into the 20th century. Tomato sauce was top of the bloody list.

Hollywood's black-and-white era used chocolate sauce as it showed up on screen better than ketchup, but in the 1960s and '70s, retired pharmacist John Tinegate created a recipe for fake

blood in his lab at Abbotsbury in Dorset. Perfectly timed for the *Hammer* series of horror films, it had a viscosity similar to the real thing and became waggishly known as Kensington Gore, a play on the street name in London, but with no actual connection to the address. Kensington Gore has since become a generic name for all fake blood. It is available in three varieties for all your sanguine needs: Aged, Venial and Arterial. SL



Animal blood is smelly and congeals quickly, so a substitute had to be found

NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

Has the Persian Empire left you perplexed? Or are you confused about Confucius? Get in touch and we may be able to help!

[@Historyrevmag#askhistrevmag](https://twitter.com/Historyrevmag)

www.facebook.com/HistoryRevealed

editor@historyrevealed.com

Answers: Hidden Historicals
Robot Bay Den Pow Well (Robert Baden-Powell) What is it? A charred loaf, from Modestus S baker, Pompeii



Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

HERE & NOW

BRITAIN'S TREASURES p90 • BOOKS p92

ON OUR RADAR

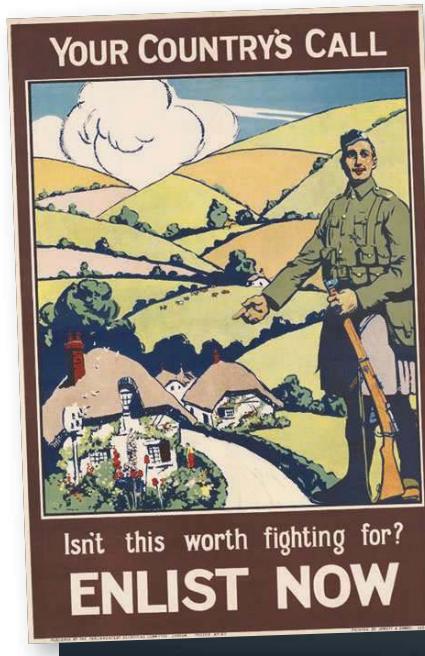
What's caught our attention this month...

MUSEUM OPENING

National Army Museum

Opens 30 March, Chelsea
www.nam.ac.uk

The hotly anticipated military museum is finally re-opening, after a three-year hiatus. A £23.75 million re-development, partially funded by the lottery, means that the UK's biggest centre for learning about the Army is kitted out with five brand-new art galleries, a new children's education facility and exciting new exhibits, such as Lawrence of Arabia's robes.



Memorabilia from the museum includes this World War II recruitment poster, Nazi car pennant and World War I service tunic worn by a 2nd Battalion captain



EXHIBITION

The Tomb: 1,000 Years of Ancient Egyptian Burial

National Museum of Scotland, starts 31 March
www.bit.ly/2kFZgQ6



ABOVE: The lady of the house worships Ra-Horakhty
RIGHT: The pair seated together

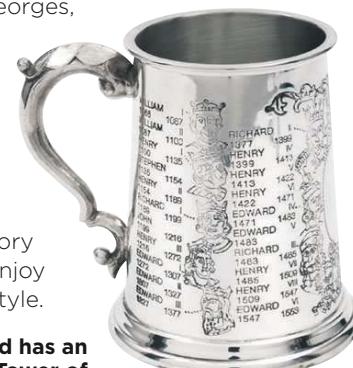
Explore the story of an incredible tomb in this fascinating exhibition. Constructed for Thebes' Chief of Police and his wife shortly after Tutankhamun's reign, it was in continued use for 1,000 years, until the Romans sealed it with many beautiful artefacts intact. Some will be on display at the National Museum of Scotland, in preparation for the opening of their new Ancient Egypt gallery in 2018.

TO BUY

Kings and queens pewter tankard

Historic Royal Palaces Shop
www.bit.ly/1RJjhTa

Do you get confused with the number of Georges, Edwards and Henrys that have ruled Britain? This beautiful tankard will help you ace pub quiz history rounds and enjoy your pint in style.



The tankard has an official Tower of London motif



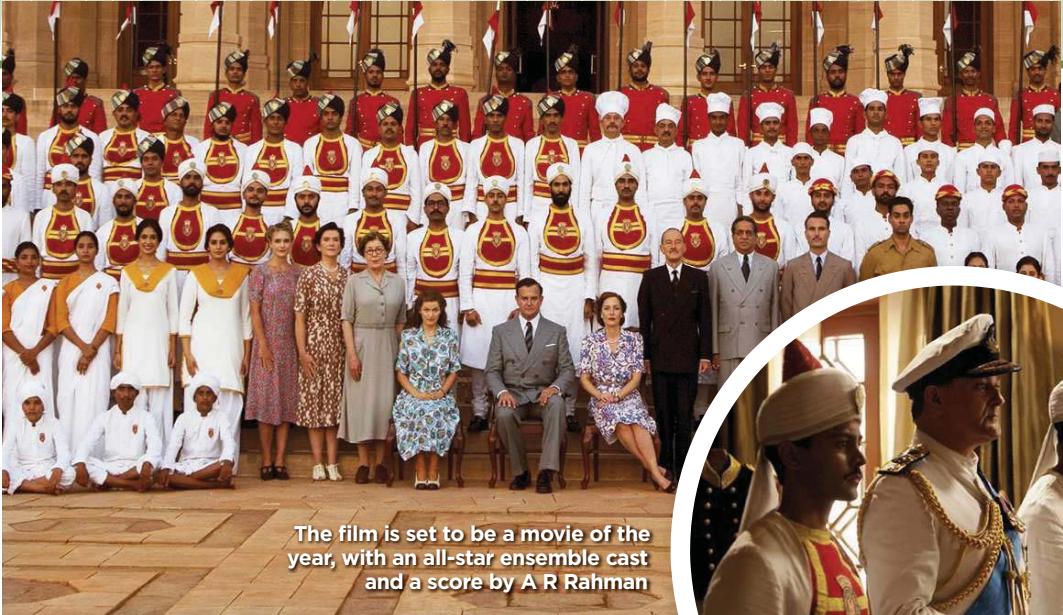
Women leave Cardiff train station on their journey to France in 1917

TALK

A Woman's War: WAACs, WRNS and Women's Work

30 March, The National Archives
www.bit.ly/2kFrBGh

Historian Elisabeth Shipton looks at how the perception of women in Britain changed during World War I, with a focus on the women's organisations that later formed the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps. Meanwhile, Dr Samantha Philo-Gill discusses the experiences of women serving in France. The original sources used will be on display for all to see.



The film is set to be a movie of the year, with an all-star ensemble cast and a score by A R Rahman



FILM

Viceroy's House

In cinemas 3 March

Directed by Gurinder Chadha, the woman behind hit-film *Bend it Like Beckham*, *Viceroy's House* is about the Partition of India, to coincide with its 70th anniversary. Starring Hugh Bonneville as Lord Mountbatten and Manish Dayal as one of his closest friends, the

plot follows the upstairs/downstairs household dynamic in the context of political turmoil and violence. Other actors with top billing include Gillian Anderson, Michael Gambon and the late Bollywood legend Om Puri.

EVENT

Napoleonic Living History Weekend

25-26 March, Whittington Castle
www.bit.ly/2kG05IJ

Join the enthusiastic re-enactors at Whittington Castle as they prepare for the Siege of Almeida, with the aim of stopping the marauding French in their tracks. Learn about the period's military history with weapons displays and talks, as well as witnessing the dramatic final showdown.



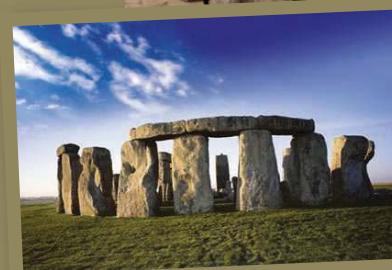
Witness the outnumbered Duke of Wellington and his Portuguese allies defend the castle

EVENT

Weekend Ancient Technology Demonstrations

Stonehenge, 11-12 March, www.bit.ly/2kj2Z8Z

This weekend will teach eager Neolithic beavers how to shape flint, in order to make the basic-yet-crucial tools the builders of Stonehenge may have used, such as chisels. Engaging experts will bring to life how our ancient ancestors made useful objects from scratch, all within the atmospheric surroundings of Stonehenge's mud hut village, which is based on the dwellings of 4,500 years ago.



Stone Age people were more sophisticated than it seems

► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- Elizabethan Living History – Visit Harvington Hall for a weekend of Tudor festivities. Harvington Hall, 4-5 March, www.harvingtonhall.com/diary-of-events
- St Patrick's Day Emigrants Farewell – 19th-century Irish migrants celebrate before leaving for the USA. 17 March, Ulster American Folk Park, www.bit.ly/2jv9r8i

GUIDING SIGHT

The ruins have helped sailors to navigate for centuries, as they are such a distinctive landmark



BUILDING BLOCKS

Despite the violent dissolutions of other abbeys, Whitby was not abused by the monarchy. **It was the Cholmleys that caused the most damage**, dismantling the church and reusing the bricks to build their family home.

BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

WHITBY ABBNEY

North Yorkshire

Overlooking the picturesque town of Whitby and the bracing North Sea, these dramatic ruins have been the setting to **one of history's most enduring horror stories**

GETTING THERE:
Getting there: 15 minutes' walk from Whitby train station, it is also accessible by car, just off the A171.



TIMES AND PRICES:
£7.10 per adult, free for English Heritage members. Open 10am-4pm Wednesday to Sunday, with extended opening hours starting 1 April 2017.

FIND OUT MORE:
Call 0370 333 1181 or visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/whitby-abbey

In the dark of night, a large, mysterious dog sprints along the Whitby shoreline, before clambering up the 199 steps to the ruined abbey and disappearing. Such is the scene in *Dracula*, when the notorious vampire reaches the Yorkshire resort and wreaks havoc on the locals. Inspired by its imposing walls, Bram Stoker propelled this 13th-century ruin to the status of major tourist attraction.

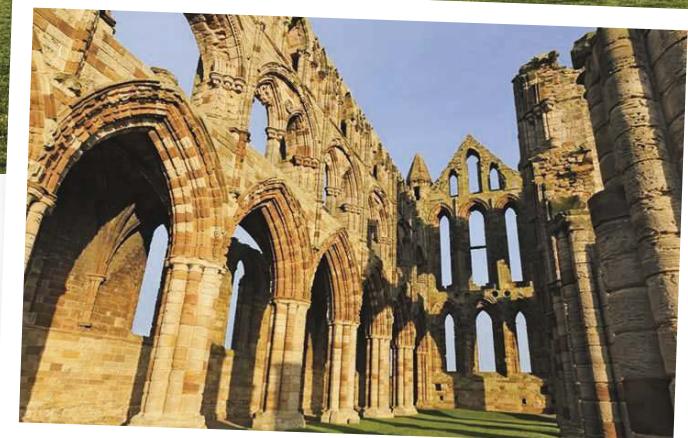
The site of the abbey has been inhabited since the Bronze Age, but the first religious buildings

were constructed there in the 7th century. Founded in AD 657 by the abbess Hild, who was the daughter of a nobleman, it was to be an Anglo-Saxon double monastery – home to both monks and nuns who lived separately but worshipped together. The nuns were known throughout the land for their skills in medicine. Hild also taught famous monks – such as Cædmon, one of the first poets to write in the English language.

It became a place of international importance in AD 664, when the Synod of Whitby

convened. Summoned by King Oswiu, the ruler of Northumbria, the synod settled one of the most controversial religious issues of the time. They decided that Easter would fall whenever Rome dictated, signifying the dominance of Papal authority in England.

Viking raids on the area in AD 867 and 870 left the holy site desolate, but 200 years later, a monk by the name of Reinfrid sought to revitalise it. Under the auspices of William the Conqueror, he built a dramatic church (which now lies in





WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



CHOLMLEY HOUSE

Be sure to check out the abbey's visitor centre and museum, which is housed in the elegant shell of the Cholmley banqueting house.



BORGHESE GLADIATOR

Outside the front entrance to the banqueting house is a 2009 bronze replica of the Louvre's *Borghese Gladiator* statue.



12TH-CENTURY CHURCH

Only lines cut into the grass, inside the church's main shell, signify where the 13th-century building would once have stood.



EAST FRONT

The church's façade is the most iconic part. Featuring gothic windows and turrets, it stands over the rest of the ruins.



ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

A setting featured in Dracula, in which one of the characters was attacked by the count, it contains graves of sailors long lost at sea.



CHURCH STAIRS

Climb up the 199 steps from Whitby town centre to the Abbey, if you're brave enough, and follow the path of Dracula himself.

“Its spectacular skyline proved irresistible”

ruins), along with a number of surrounding buildings. The abbey thrived, and it was continually expanded over the years.

That was until Henry VIII closed the abbey during his dissolution of the monasteries campaign in 1539. He sold off the estate to the Cholmley family, who knocked down much of the monastic buildings, leaving the church and the abbott's accommodation. Thinking the latter would make a nice new house, Sir Richard Cholmley adapted it. His grandson went even further, building the grand 'banqueting house' wing and formal gardens.

Living in the house for a century, the Cholmley family eventually moved to a more luxurious home, abandoning the

Whitby grounds and leaving it at the mercy of the elements. During a storm in the 18th century, the roof of the banqueting house was removed, leaving but a shell of the building – resembling the already decrepit abbey next door.

LITERARY RETREAT

As Whitby grew into a popular Victorian resort town, more people took interest in the abbey, its unique setting and spectacular skyline proving irresistible. Bram Stoker, the Irish author, found much-needed inspiration for his next book there – the abandoned buildings and steep headlands were the perfect location for his gothic vampire novel.

During World War I, German boats shelled the town of Whitby.

Aiming for the coastguard station at the end of the headland, they accidentally hit the 13th-century monastery repeatedly, causing significant damage to the west side of the abbey. After the war, it came into the possession of the government, which conducted large-scale excavations at the site. Confirming the existence of the Anglian settlement, many of the archaeological treasures they found are now housed in the abbey's museum.

Research into the abbey's history continues, with new evidence of previous settlements frequently being discovered. A place sure to capture everyone's imagination, from history buffs, to horror fans, a trip to Whitby Abbey is a safe bet this spring. ☺

WHY NOT VISIT...

Whitby offers a wealth of interesting museums and attractions, perfect for a day trip

WHALEBONE ARCH

The jawbones of a bowhead whale, legally killed by an Alaskan inuit, sit atop a hill – which offers fantastic views of the town.

www.bit.ly/2jV1lqR

WHITBY MUSEUM

Set in the scenic Pannett Park, attractions range from local jewellery, to fossils, to intricate Napoleonic boat models.

www.whitbymuseum.org.uk

WHITBY LIGHTHOUSES

Enjoy Whitby's seafaring heritage by taking in the incredible North Sea views from the top of one of the 19th-century lighthouses.

www.bit.ly/2jCL88G

BOOK REVIEWS

This month's best historical books

BOOK
OF THE
MONTH

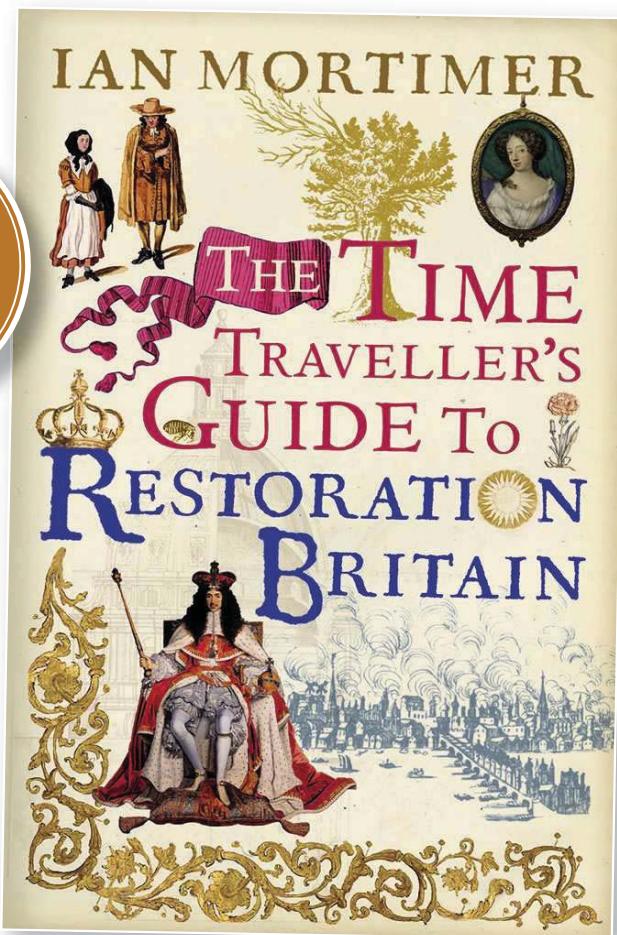
The Time Traveller's Guide to Restoration Britain

By Ian Mortimer

Bodley Head, £20, 400 pages, hardback

Named for the resumption, in 1660, of the English, Scottish and Irish monarchies under Charles II after the republican governments of the Civil War, Restoration Britain – which, in Ian Mortimer's new book, extends as far as 1700 – was a period of rapid change and cultural innovation. Some of the most recognisable icons of British history reside here, from Samuel Pepys and the Great Fire of London to the endeavours of Isaac Newton and Christopher Wren. Mortimer charts these skillfully, but also sets them alongside the experiences of less well-known individuals. It's a vivid portrait of a 40-year period whose effects, he argues, are still being felt today.

“Some of the most recognisable icons of British history reside here”



LEFT: John Wilmot, a poet in Charles II's court, is seen as a hero of the Restoration
ABOVE: The Great Fire of London in 1666 wiped out much of the old, walled city

MEET THE AUTHOR

Ian Mortimer tells us about the more surprising and innovative aspects of the Restoration, reflecting a dramatic shift in attitudes towards higher powers

Just how tumultuous was the relatively short period of the Restoration?

We forget how much doubt and fear there was in 1659: no head of state, parliament ousted by the army, and many people fearing another civil war. We also forget how incredibly strict the morals of the period were, with a religious emphasis to social legislation that would remind you of some Middle Eastern states today.

So the return of the monarchy, the restoration of the church hierarchy, the recovery of ancient customs that the Puritan government had banned (such as Christmas and dancing around the maypole), and the relaxation of a lot of repressive moral legislation meant the whole country sighed with relief and started to celebrate. These things happened so suddenly, they really were tumultuous. In that sense, the Restoration was anything but 'short' – you could argue that it has not yet ended. Certainly we have never again chosen a government driven by a Puritan ideology.

What was the most important change of the years between 1660 and 1700?

You have to contrast the superstition, belief in witchcraft, religious dogma, moral fear and general acceptance of ignorance among the ordinary people, which prevailed in the early 17th century, with the rationalism, dismissal of witchcraft, confidence in science, relative sexual freedom and rejection of ignorance that characterised the end of the period. Obviously there were traces of the old way of thinking still, but the majority of people had seen a great tipping point. This is starkly characterised by the use of medicine: in 1600, about five

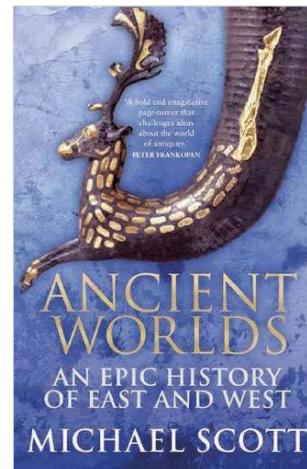
per cent of people dying from an illness sought professional medical help; the rest looked only to God, or 'Christ the Physician', to help them. By 1700, most people sought the help of a doctor. In other words, over the course of the century, we had shifted from placing all hope of physical salvation in religion to trusting our fellow men, through whose skill and expertise cures would be wrought. That's one amazing change, and it is to be seen underlying almost every aspect of life, not just religion and medicine. In

the 1650s, if you were worried about your house burning down, you'd pray. In 1700, you'd pay for fire insurance. God still remained important, of course, but most people did not expect divine power directly to touch their lives.



“In some sense, you could argue that the Restoration has not yet ended”

King's own rakishness in setting a new royal record for philandering. But like almost all commentators for the past 200 years, I thought their behaviour was merely selfish and self-indulgent. What I didn't appreciate was how much it was conditioned by an intelligent desire utterly to destroy the last vestiges of puritanism – the kick against the moral self-righteousness that had for so many years robbed them of their estates and wealth, thrown them into exile, and in the King's case, killed his father. Writing this book taught me about libertinism as a constructive force, a form of defiance.

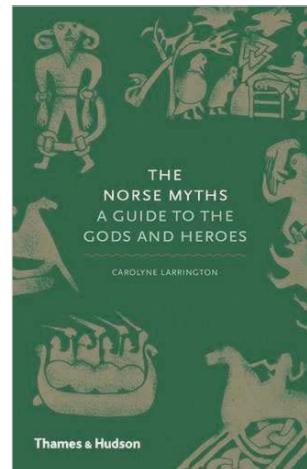


Ancient Worlds: An Epic History of East and West

By Michael Scott

Windmill Books, £9.99, 432 pages, paperback

Offering a global look at ancient history, this sweeping account spans Greece and Rome, but also China, India and Central Asia. It reveals the ways in which great civilisations were connected through trade and religion, and even how their experiences were more similar than we might expect.

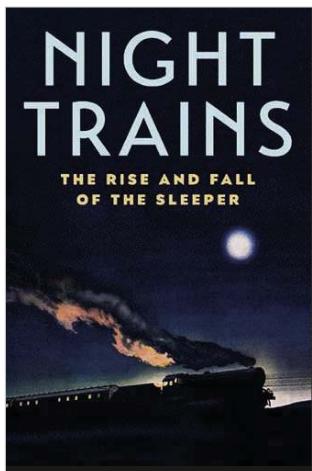


The Norse Myths: A Guide to the Gods and Heroes

By Carolyne Larrington

Thames and Hudson, £12.95, 208 pages, hardback

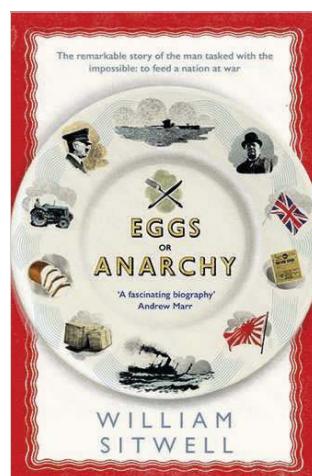
Whether you don't know your Æsyr from your Baldur, or you're fascinated by Norse mythology, this is a great place to start. As well as translations from original texts, filled with mischief, this guide explores the stories' origins and influence on later writers.



Night Trains: The Rise and Fall of the Sleeper

By Andrew Martin
Profile, £14.99, 256 pages, hardback

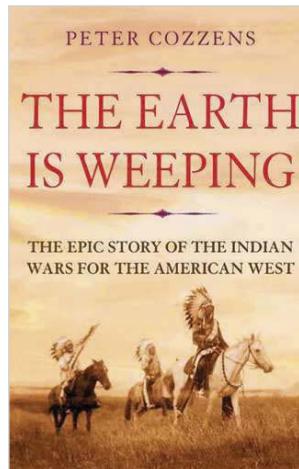
Far from the daily grind of train journeys, the image of the night train – gliding elegantly through the sleeping landscape – has proven compelling for generations of travellers and writers. Here, journalist Andrew Martin sets out to recreate some of these classic journeys around Europe, discovering more about the history of the continent in the process.



Eggs or Anarchy: The Remarkable Story of the Man Tasked with the Impossible

By William Sitwell
Simon and Schuster, £9.99, 368 pages, paperback

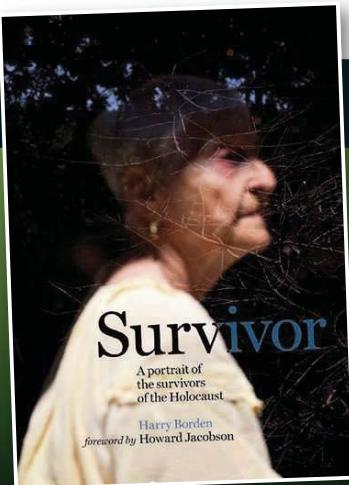
Sitwell tells the tale of Lord Woolton, 'Uncle Fred', who worked tirelessly to maintain World War II food supplies despite opposition from his own colleagues.



The Earth is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West

By Peter Cozzens
Atlantic, £25, 576 pages, hardback

This is the real story of the battle for the American West. Full of conflict, squalor and moments of surprising empathy, it's a gripping look at a period of huge events and similarly enormous personalities.



Survivor: A Portrait of the Survivors of the Holocaust

By Harry Borden
Cassell, £30, 276 pages, hardback

This dignified book pays tribute to some of the survivors of the Nazi Holocaust in a disarmingly simple way: by featuring present-day portraits and notes handwritten by each person. A final section gives details about the experiences and events they lived through. It humanises a monstrous period of history and is incredibly moving.

VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH

A selection of thoughts from the survivors, written in their own handwriting, grace the pages of this elegant work

A young Jewish woman... from the ghetto of life in my early youth to the beauty and freedom of Australia, at my "second" life.

Thinking of the home & people who I suddenly received but I have arrived towards the end of my life, as a perfect mess! To peace. I feel bad now, no longer and he left.



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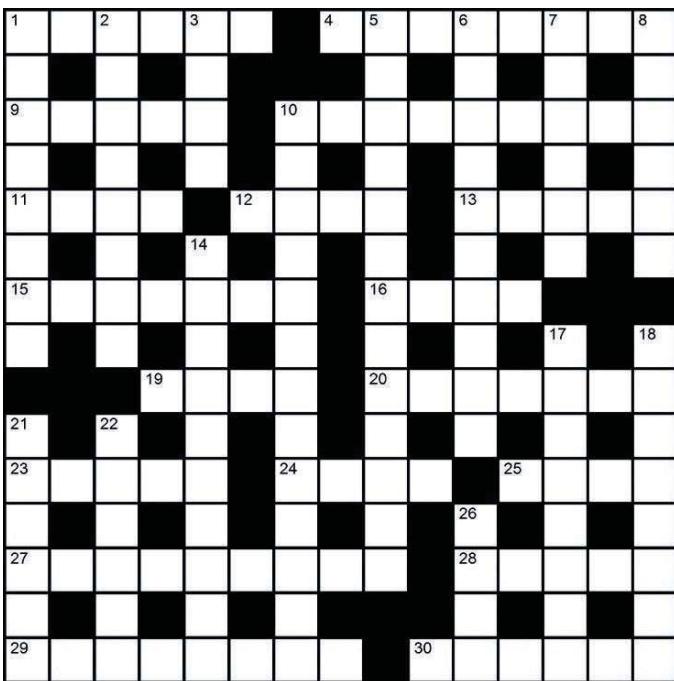
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CROSSWORD N° 40

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 1 Alexei ___ (b.1934), cosmonaut who in 1965 made the first-ever 'spacewalk' (6)
- 4 Gavrilo Princip or James Earl Ray, for example (8)
- 9 Los Angeles district in which rioting broke out in summer 1965 (5)
- 10 Minnesota city, originally known as Pig's Eye Landing (5,4)
- 11 River on which the city of St Petersburg was built in the early 1700s (4)
- 12 Name shared by seven Russian tsars, including 'The Terrible' and 'The Fair' (4)
- 13 ___ Jones (1573-1652), British architect (5)
- 15 Andy ___ (1949-84), US
- 16 'O reason not the ___!' – *King Lear*, Act 2, Scene 4 (4)
- 19 Queen of Great Britain and Ireland from 1702 to 1714 (4)
- 20 Battle of ___, 1916 naval conflict (7)
- 23 18th-century Texas mission, seized by Mexico in 1835 despite fierce resistance (5)
- 24 Ayn ___ (1905-82), Russian-born US novelist and libertarian (4)
- 25 Middle Eastern port city, besieged by Crusaders from 1189 to 1191 (4)
- 27 Ancient village and former Pictish settlement in Perth and Kinross (9)
- 28 City declared the capital of North Vietnam by Ho Chi Minh
- 30 comedian and actor (7)

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The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy.

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

CHANCE TO WIN

The Phantom Atlas

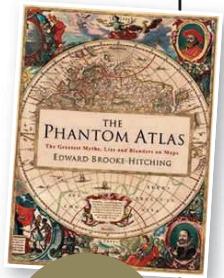
by Edward Brooke-Hitching

Maps aren't always reliable, as this excellent work shows. It highlights the greatest errors made by map makers, who drew the world based on fictional findings – with imagined islands, mountains and even cultures.

Published by Simon & Schuster, £25.

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, March 2017 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to march2017@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk by noon on **1 April 2017**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.



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SOLUTION N° 38



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LONG WAY DOWN

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Sylvia strikes back

**Medical Secretary gives something
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So it's not surprising Sylvia decided that **one of the best things she could do would be to strike back again, by supporting the work of the Stroke Association – and leave us a generous gift in her Will.**

Today, we take time to remember her. Because Sylvia is still playing an important part in helping us create a future free of stroke, and turn around the lives of thousands of stroke survivors each year.



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association

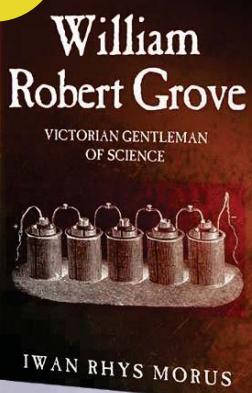
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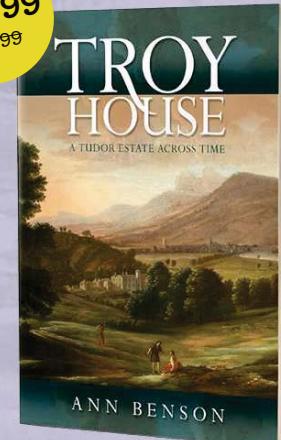
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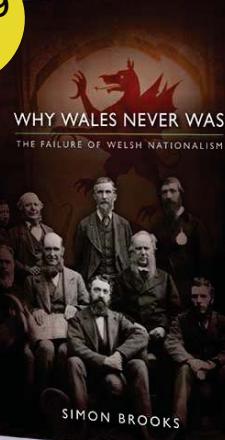
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